Another Interlude...

stomp
click
HOW DARE YOU ...
...MAKE A FOOL OUT OF ME!
...

LISTEN UP!
I'M A TRANSLATOR...
...AND WITHOUT ME, YOU WOULDN'T EVEN BE ABLE TO SHOW OFF LIKE YOU DO!
I'VE BEEN WORKING HARD AND SPENDING A LOT OF MY TIME JUST TO GIVE YOU LIFE!
AND AFTER ALL I'VE DONE FOR YOU, YOU HAVE THE NERVE TO FORGET MY BIRTHDAY?!
POINT
I HATE YOU!

WHY YOU ...
pant pant
THAT'S ALL YOU WANNA SAY, TANPOPO?
I... spoke too soon...!
Sorry... ERR ...
UH ...
Crap...
stomp stomp stomp
backs away in...
I'M SORRY. I WAS JUST SAD AND UPSET ...
...THAT YOU FOR-GOT!
Don't hurt me!
This guy's crazy!! I'm really gonna get it now...!

What the hell?!
THUD

DON'T BE MAD AT ME, TANTAN. IT WAS ALL PART OF CONDEN'S PLAN.
BUT... I CAN'T HOLD BACK ANY-MORE.
I'M GONNA GIVE YOU YOUR BIRTHDAY PRESENT PROPERLY... RIGHT NOW.
Tantan?
He called me... Tantan...

Tantan, just like Kazuki,
we remembered your birthday!
Best of wishes for a dream-filled day.

With Love,

Conden

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MC MARGARET COMICS 別冊マーガレット

キャットストリート

Vol. 3

神尾葉子

MARGARET COMICS

Cat Street 3

Kamio Youko

4007♦
Shueisha

KINOKUNIYA BOOKSTORES

ISBN4-08-846007-3

キャットストリート 3

C9979 ¥390E

(901)-1 11/2005

JB-JCOMIC-CM02
5.50

集英社
定価 本体390円+税
雑誌 57239-07

Keito's days as a social recluse are over. She's made new friends and she's even experienced her first crush as well as her first heartbreak. But just when she thinks that her past is finally behind her, Sonoda Nako, her old friend and rival, appears before her. Why now? What's Nako's motive?

MC MARGARET COMICS 別冊マーガレット

Included work
Cat Street Volume 03

Kouichi's a genius when it comes to programming, but his weakness was in his social skills. Thanks to the people he met, he began to change...

Author's Comment: Kamio Youko

As I mention in one of my free talks, I'm currently trying to get a driver's license. I keep making mistakes such as driving on the wrong side of the road though, which makes me wonder if drawing manga is the only thing I'm good at... I want to cry when I think like that, but I guess I should be happy that I have any skills at all. I'll continue to try my best.
-- Kamio Youko

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Cat Street

Chapter 09 Credits

mangaka: Kamio Youko
raw provider: suey
scanner: KageKoutetsu
translator: Elina
editor: galiane
QCers: suey, Elina & Vanderguard
color by: bluejsea

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Cat Street ③

Kamio Youko

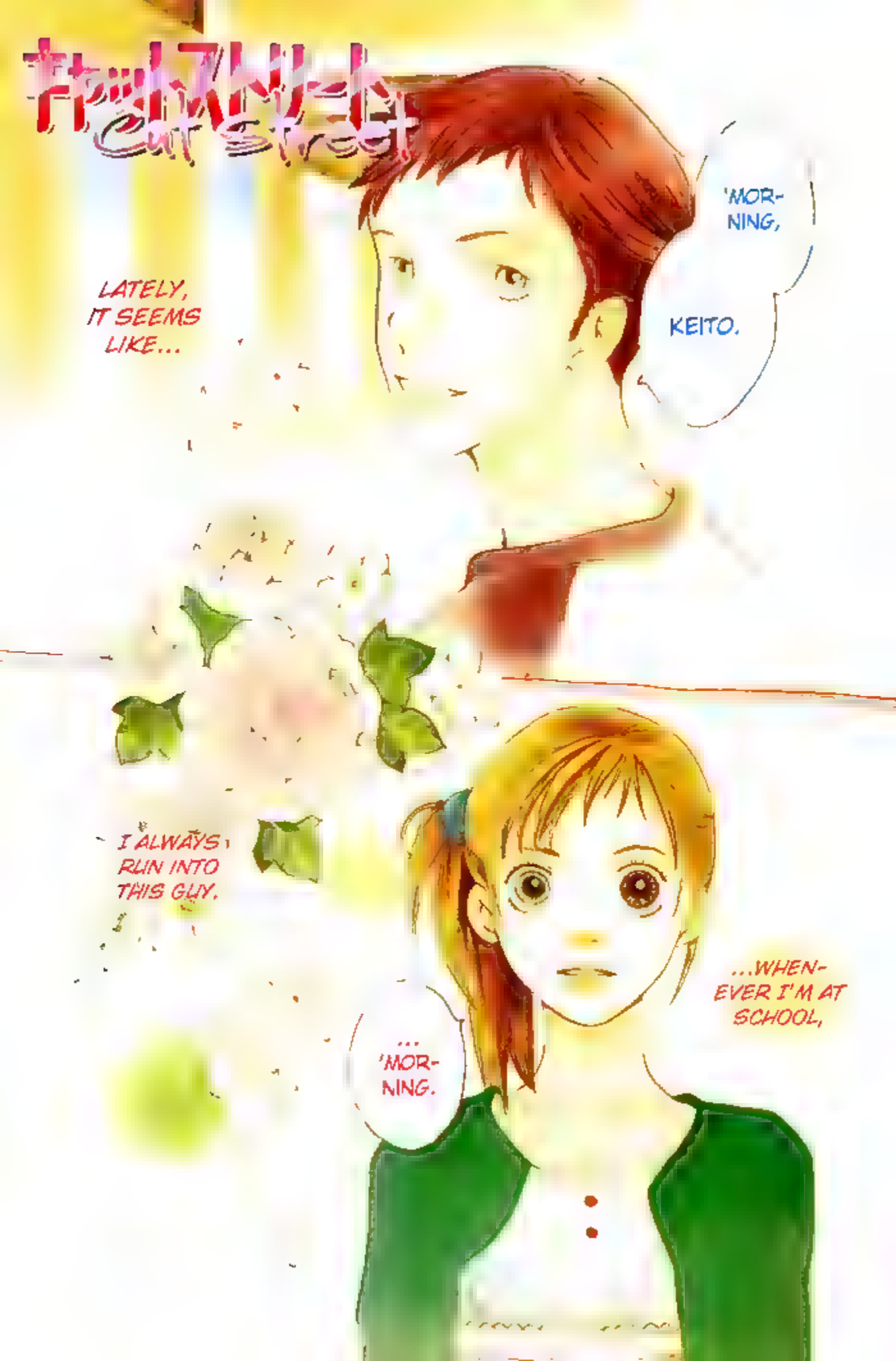
For the full story read Cat Street volume 01 & volume 02 now on sale!

<<Story Until Now>>

Keito, a 16-year-old, is a formerly famous child actor. When she was nine, she froze onstage during a performance and couldn't say her lines. As a result, her career ended and she withdrew from society...

However, fate brings Keito to E-Liston, a free school. She becomes a student there and gradually learns to open her heart and make new friends. There's Rei, a talented soccer player; Kouichi, a genius with an IQ of 200; and Momiji, a Gothic Lolita. Keito also reunites with her old grade-school classmate, Taiyou, and even falls for him! No sooner does she realize her feelings though, then she finds out that he's already dating Hirano, the manager of his soccer team. Keito falls apart after this discovery, and she and Hirano have an emotional confrontation. But they eventually come to an understanding, and Keito decides to give up on Taiyou.

At school, Keito meets Maasa, a former model turned makeup artist. He begs her to let him give her a makeover and she agrees. But Keito doesn't know that Maasa is actually friends with Nako, Keito's old friend and rival from her days as a child actor.


Fruits Basket
LATELY, IT SEEMS LIKE...
'MOR-NING,
KEITO.
I ALWAYS RUN INTO THIS GUY.
...WHEN-EVER I'M AT SCHOOL,
... 'MOR-NING.

キッスストリート

©YOKO KAMIO

LET ME MAKE YOU LOOK LIKE BEYONCE TODAY.
DON'T WORRY. I HAVE CLEANSER SO YOU CAN WASH OFF THE MAKEUP LATER.
WHAT?!
YOU WANT TO GIVE ME ANOTHER MAKEOVER?!
WHO THE HECK IS BEYONCE?
ARE YOU SERIOUS?! YOU DON'T KNOW WHO BEYONCE IS?
BEYONCE OF DESTINY'S CHILD?
NEVER HEARD OF HER
BUT WHO CARES? LET'S JUST GET THIS OVER WITH.
All you ever want to do is give me makeovers.

ANGRY
JUST TURN ME INTO BEYONCE ALREADY!!
HEY! WHY ARE YOU FROWNING?! YOU'LL MESS UP YOUR FOUNDATION!
YOU'VE REALLY BEEN LIVING UNDER A ROCK SINCE YOUR RETIREMENT.
TWO MONTHS HAVE PASSED SINCE I STARTED ATTENDING SCHOOL AT EL LISTON.
I DON'T MIND GOING OUT AS MUCH AS I USED TO.
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOUR FRIENDS AROUND LATELY.
EVERYONE'S BUSY, SO I'M ALONE MORE OFTEN!
WHAT ABOUT THAT GIRL? THE ONE WHO DRESSES LIKE A GOTHIC LOLITA?
REI'S A SOCCER COACH AND HE'S GETTING READY FOR AN UPCOMING GAME.
BECAUSE OF THAT...
MOMIJI WON'T BE GETTING HERE UNTIL LATER.
KOUICHI'S WORKING.

...I'VE BEEN HANGING OUT WITH MAASA AND LETTING HIM GIVE ME MAKE-OVERS. HE'S A FORMER MODEL AND AN ASPIRING MAKEUP ARTIST.
YOU HAVE TOUGH SKIN.
MOST PEOPLE WOULD BREAK OUT IF THEY HAD TO WEAR THIS MUCH MAKEUP EVERY DAY.
KEITO!
SO THIS IS WHERE YOU'VE BEEN...
OH, SPEAK OF THE DEVIL.
YOU LOOK EVEN GALLIER THAN USUAL TODAY.
Momiji!
ARE YOU LETTING MAASA MAKE YOU OVER AGAIN?
twinge
Oh, my!
Please don't flatter me.
Was that a compliment?
HEY, DO YOU WANT TO VISIT KOUICHI TODAY?
Scanlations Condensations

ARE YOU SURE IT'S OKAY?
YES! YOU HAVE TO CHECK OUT HIS PLACE.
I HAVE TO BE AT WORK TONIGHT,
BUT I CAN GO WITH YOU FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
I THINK HE SHOULD BE DONE WITH HIS PROJECT BY NOW.
YOU SHOULD COME TOO, MAASA.
BUT ISN'T HE WORKING?
BUT HE PROBABLY DOESN'T WANT TO BE BOTHERED...
UM, THEN I'LL GO WASH MY FACE.
WHO'RE YOU ASSIGNED TO?
YOU DO HAIR AND MAKEUP FOR CELEBRITIES, RIGHT?
YEAH.
HERE'S THE CLEANSER, KEITO!
OH, THANKS!

...I'M JUST AN APPRENTICE,
SO I DON'T WORK WITH ANYONE IN PARTICULAR.
I SEE. YOU SEEM PRETTY BUSY.
Sonoda Naki
One-Way Actress?!
dip
dip
dip

*Information Technology

KOUICHI LIVES HERE?
REALLY?
WOW!
Oooh!
YEAH.
HE'S RICH?!
dick dick dick dick dick dick dick dick dick dick
WHAT?!
DING DONG
THIS IS SO HARD TO BELIEVE!
HE LIVES NEXT TO A LOT OF NICE SHOPS
HIS COMPANY BOUGHT THE PLACE FOR HIM.
I'VE HEARD THAT GOOD PROGRAMMERS MAKE A LOT OF MONEY

WE CAME TO SEE YOU!!
H-HI.
HELLO.
...WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
TO SEE ME?
YES.
WHO'RE YOU?
OH, I SEE YOU IN THE COMPUTER LAB OCCASIONALLY.
BUT I'VE NEVER INTRODUCED MYSELF
YOU DON'T KNOW MAASA? HE'S A FORMER MODEL.
THIS PLACE IS SO HUGE
YOU STILL HAVEN'T BOUGHT ANY NEW FURNITURE.
DO YOU LIVE HERE BY YOURSELF?

S-SORRY, MAASA.
KOUICHI, YOU'RE SO MEAN!
Please forgive him.
He doesn't know how to be polite
IT'S ALL R.GHT.
NO, I DON'T.
turns away
NOT YET.
HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S LOST WEIGHT.
DID YOU FINISH YOUR WORK?
LET'S MAKE HIM SOME RICE BALLS, KEITO.
EH?
OKAY.
DO YOU HAVE ANY RICE?
THAT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH.
I THINK I DO.
HAVE YOU BEEN EATING PROPERLY?
I'VE BEEN EATING CUP RAMEN.

Rice
OKAY, I GOT IT.
I WASH THE RICE
KEITO, CAN YOU WASH THE RICE?
OH, I NEED TO GET SOME INGREDIENTS FOR MISO SOUP, SO I'LL GO WITH YOU.
THEN I'LL GO TO THE STORE TO BUY A FEW THINGS.
. .IS WATER ALL I NEED FOR WASHING RICE?
THIS CUP PROBABLY MEASURES 1 GOU...*
SPARK
* 1 gou = approximately 3/4 cup

Cat!
JUST USE WATER.
I'LL DO IT.
T-THAT'S OKAY. YOU CAN GO BACK TO WORK.
...SORRY.
OH, NO... HE PROBABLY THINKS I'M WEIRD 'CAUSE I DON'T KNOW HOW TO WASH RICE.
KOUICHI'S DIFFERENT
FROM REI OR MOMIJI
HE'S NEVER CALLED ME BY MY FIRST NAME
zshhh
splash

NO, I HAVE TO CHANGE MY ATTITUDE!
H-HEY, CAN I SEE WHAT YOU'RE WORKING ON?
THE AIR FEELS THICK.
Gulp
I WISH REI WAS HERE. HE'S ALWAYS RELAXED AND WOULD KNOW WHAT TO DO.
I'M NOT SURE HOW TO APPROACH HIM
HE WAS PROBABLY WORKING AT HOME TO BE ALONE.
OH, WOW!
ARE ALL OF THESE FOR WORK?
HOW MANY COMPUTERS DO YOU HAVE?!

WHAT INTERESTING CHARACTERS. IS THIS THE PROGRAM?
HOW MUCH DO YOU HAVE LEFT TO FINISH?
OH!
THAT'S THE ONE YOU ALWAYS BRING WITH YOU TO SCHOOL.
I'M ONLY USING THIS LAPTOP RIGHT NOW
I'M ALMOST DONE WITH THE CODING.
SO ALL I NEED TO DO IS COMPILE IT.
WHAT'S THAT?
WE'RE BACK!
DING DONG
Eek!
I never should've asked
CODING IS THE SET OF INSTRUCTIONS YOU USE FOR A COMPUTER PROGRAM AND IT'S WRITTEN IN A SPECIFIC PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE.
COMPILING TRANSLATES THE CODE INTO A MACHINE-LANGUAGE PROGRAM SO THAT IT CAN BE EXECUTED.
SNAP
PHEW
OH,
THEY'RE BACK.

SOME-
GOT THING...
CAUGHT
ON MY
LEG...

Hello!
This is Kanio

There are three volumes of Cat Street out!
It's hard to believe this series is already this long.
It's fall now.
I'm so happy to see you again!

Recently, I moved my workplace
I have a nicer view now, so I go out on the balcony to watch the sunset or to watch for the first star of the evening when I need a break from work

I hope you enjoy reading Cat Street Volume 3!!

YOU COULD TAKE A QUICK NAP AND THEN TURN IT IN LATER
CAN YOU ASK THEM TO PUSH BACK THE DEADLINE?
PAT
YOU SHOULD ALSO EAT SOME-THING...
THEY'RE PAYING ME SO I HAVE TO BEHAVE LIKE A PROFES-SIONAL.
THAT'S NOT AN ACCEPTABLE ATTITUDE.

WE'LL ONLY BOTHER HIM IF WE STAY.
WE SHOULD PROBABLY LEAVE.
WELL, I'M NOT SURPRISED.
I HAVE A JOB, TOO, SO I UNDERSTAND.
I'VE NEVER SEEN KOUICHI ACT LIKE THAT BEFORE...
Sad
YOU TWO
WHAT?!
IT'S THAT BAD?!
HMM..
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, MAASA..?
IT'S LIKE GETTING DEFEATED BY THE LAST BOSS IN A VIDEO GAME AND HAVING TO TO START OVER FROM THE MIDDLE BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T SAVE YOUR GAME.

HUH?
HE'S GOTTEN THINNER
AND HE LOOKS LIKE HE HASN'T SLEPT IN DAYS.
...I'M...GOING TO STAY.
YEAH, SO LET'S LEAVE.
OKAY.
LET'S GO, KEITO.
HE WORKED SO HARD.
IT'S MY FAULT.
MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING I CAN DO FOR HIM.
WHEN I WAS NINE YEARS OLD, I FAILED TO PERFORM MY ROLE IN A MUSICAL. I DISAPPOINTED EVERYONE AND THE TICKETS HAD TO BE REFUNDED.
I KNOW HOW TERRIBLE IT FEELS...
..WHEN YOU LOSE SOMEONE'S TRUST.
EVEN IF I CAN'T DO ANYTHING,
I'M GOING TO STAY 'TIL HE'S DONE.

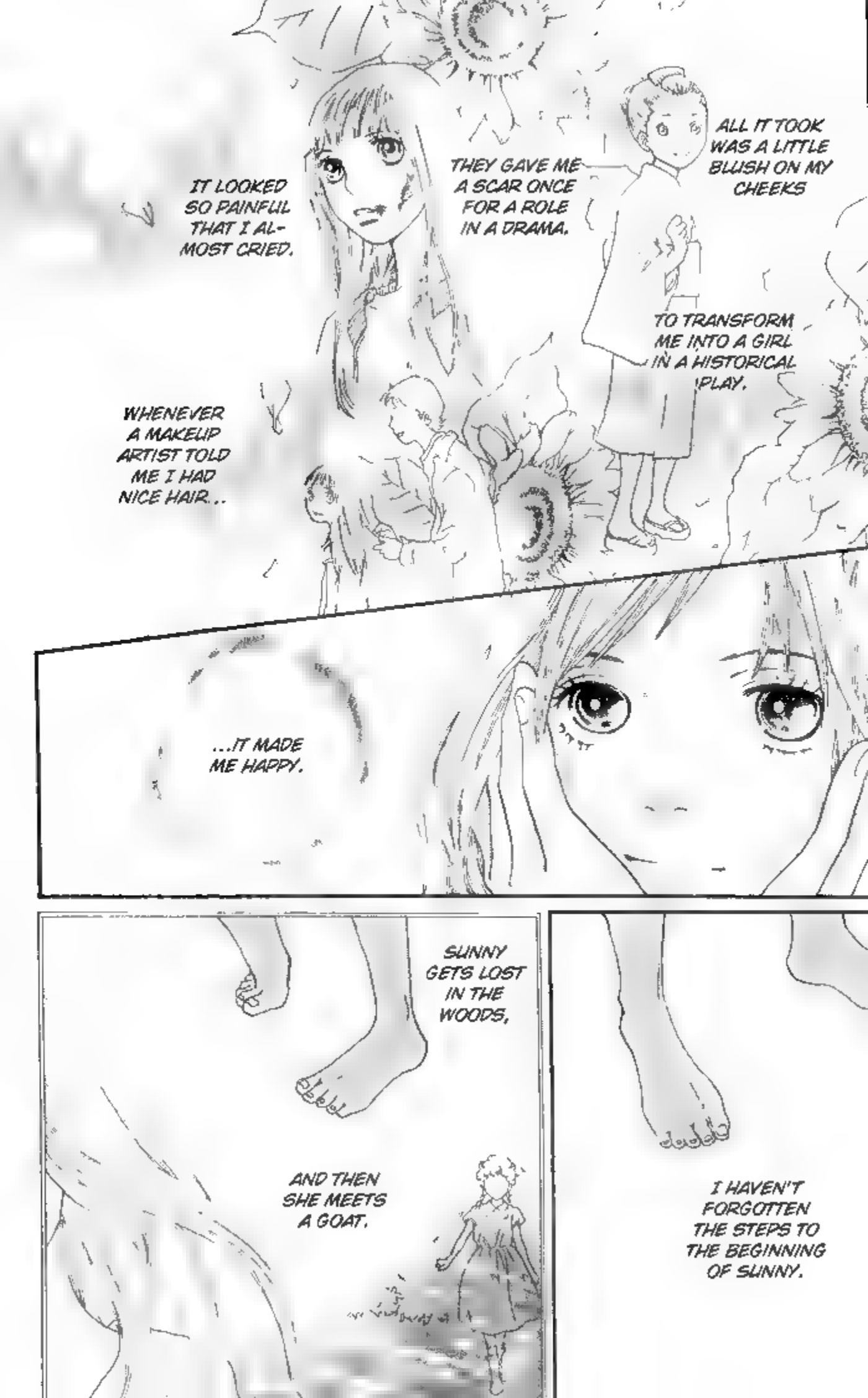
They're paying me so I have to behave like a professional
KEITO, DO YOU HAVE A CELL PHONE?
NO.
HERE'S MY BUSINESS CARD.
CALL ME AT THIS NUMBER IF YOU NEED ME.
WHAT HE SAID REALLY HIT ME.
DON'T BE TOO HARD ON YOURSELF.
I HAVE TO GO TO WORK NOW, SO I'LL SEE YOU TWO LATER.
CLOSE
...MAASA'S A NICE GUY.

Thank you!
MOMIJI!
ALL RIGHT!!
I'LL STAY, TOO.
WE'LL MAKE RICE BALLS!
HELLO.
THIS IS MAASA. AM I SPEAKING TO NAKO-SAN?
AS I TOLD YOU BEFORE,
KEITO SEEMS TO HAVE NO INTENTION OF RETURNING TO SHOW BIZ.
NO, THERE HAVEN'T BEEN ANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS.
She's pretty low-key, and I think her friends are kind of weird
SHE HAS FRIENDS?
SHE DIDN'T HAVE ANY BEFORE.

So I really don't think you have to worry about her
ARE YOU TELLING ME WHAT TO DO?
JUST WHO DO YOU THINK
GOT YOU YOUR JOB?
BLEEP
Your crying act is very good—
especia ly the way you look down and bite your lip
but you can say it's a technique I developed
Well, I just try to mimic the way most people cry

WHAM
LOOKS LIKE IT'S STILL GOING TO TAKE A WHILE FOR HIM TO FINISH IT.
IS IT OKAY FOR YOU TO STAY OUT ALL NIGHT?
OH, IT'S NO PROBLEM AT ALL.
I'M ONE OF FIVE KIDS, SO NO ONE EVER NOTICES WHEN I'M NOT AROUND
FIVE KIDS?! WOW.
IT'S ALWAYS ROWDY.
WE HAVE TO SCRAMBLE FOR FOOD ALL THE TIME

I ONLY HAVE A YOUNGER SISTER.
WE DON'T TALK MUCH, THOUGH.
THAT'S RIGHT. KOUICHI HELPED HER OUT THAT DAY. SHE WAS BULLIED.
HE PLAYED THE SOUND OF SIRENS FROM HIS LAPTOP TO MAKE IT SEEM LIKE THE POLICE WERE NEARBY.
YAWWOOO
AHHH, I HAVE TO WASH MY MAKEUP OFF,
BUT I'M SO SLEEPY.
ZZZz...
MAKEUP, HUH...?
BACK THEN THEY'D DRESS ME UP AND PUT MAKE-UP ON ME AND I COULD PRETEND TO BE ANYONE.


IT LOOKED SO PAINFUL THAT I ALMOST CRIED.
THEY GAVE ME A SCAR ONCE FOR A ROLE IN A DRAMA.
ALL IT TOOK WAS A LITTLE BLUSH ON MY CHEEKS
TO TRANSFORM ME INTO A GIRL IN A HISTORICAL PLAY.
WHENEVER A MAKEUP ARTIST TOLD ME I HAD NICE HAIR..
...IT MADE ME HAPPY.
SUNNY GETS LOST IN THE WOODS,
AND THEN SHE MEETS A GOAT.
I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN THE STEPS TO THE BEGINNING OF SUNNY.

Startled!
"Hello, Mr Goat"
"My name is Sunny"

HE SAW ME!
YOU'RE STILL HERE.
OH, MY GOD! THIS IS TERRI-BLE!
Yeah.
Y...
FIRST, I CAME OVER UNINVITED AND INTERRUPTED HIS WORK.
THEN I JUST DANCED AROUND WHILE HE WAS HURRYING TO FINISH HIS PROJECT!
UH...
UM..
I'M REALLY SORRY.
I DON'T THINK I CAN MAKE IT UP TO YOU BY APOLOGIZING, BUT..
ARE THESE RICE BALLS?
OH!
YES.

I MADE THE ONE THAT LOOKS LIKE A ROCK.
...
Eep!
M-MOMIJI MADE THE NICE ONES, SO EAT THOSE INSTEAD.
MUCH
...IT WAS UNPROFESSIONAL OF ME NOT TO BACK UP MY WORK.

DIDN'T YOU HAVE TO GO TO A LOT OF TROUBLE BECAUSE OF ME?
YOU'VE BEEN WORKING FOR HOURS ON NO SLEEP.
AND...
BUT...
...SO IT'S MY FAULT.
I...
IT'S ALL HERE IN MY HEAD.

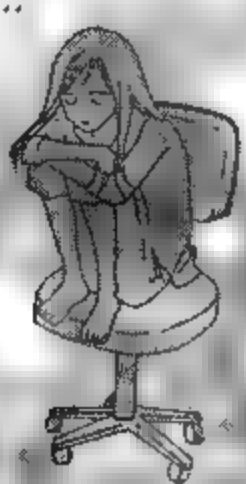
I JUST HAVE TO INPUT ALL THAT DATA INTO THE COMPUTER AGAIN.
SO, IT'S ALL RIGHT.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT ANYMORE, KEITO.

KOUICHI...
HUH?
YOU REALLY DON'T MIND IF I STAY HERE?
Game
START
I MADE THE GAME EASIER AND LOWERED THE COMPUTER THINKING LEVEL.
JUST DOUBLE-CLICK ON THIS FOLDER.
I FORGOT I MADE THIS FOR YOU.
tremble
tremble
I'll make an easier game for you
THAT'S WHAT HE SAID BACK THEN...
...THANK YOU.
click clack
click clack
click clack
click clack

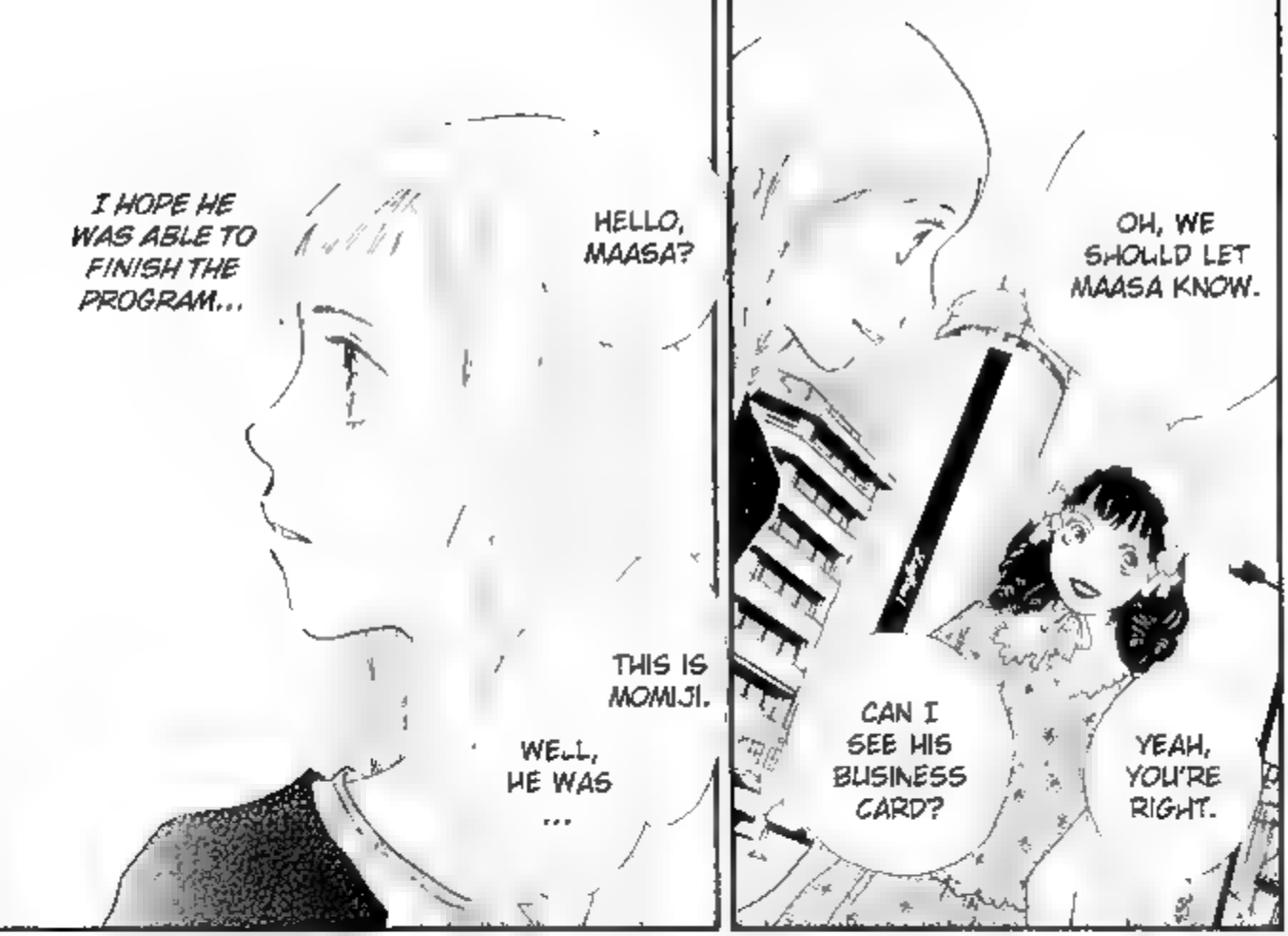
DESPITE WHAT HE SAID, THE GAME WAS HARD AND IMPOSSIBLE TO BEAT.

THOUGH HE WAS UNABLE TO CREATE AN EASIER GAME FOR ME...

THE SOUND CREATED BY HIS FAST TYPING WAS SO COMFORTING LIKE A STEADY HEARTBEAT...



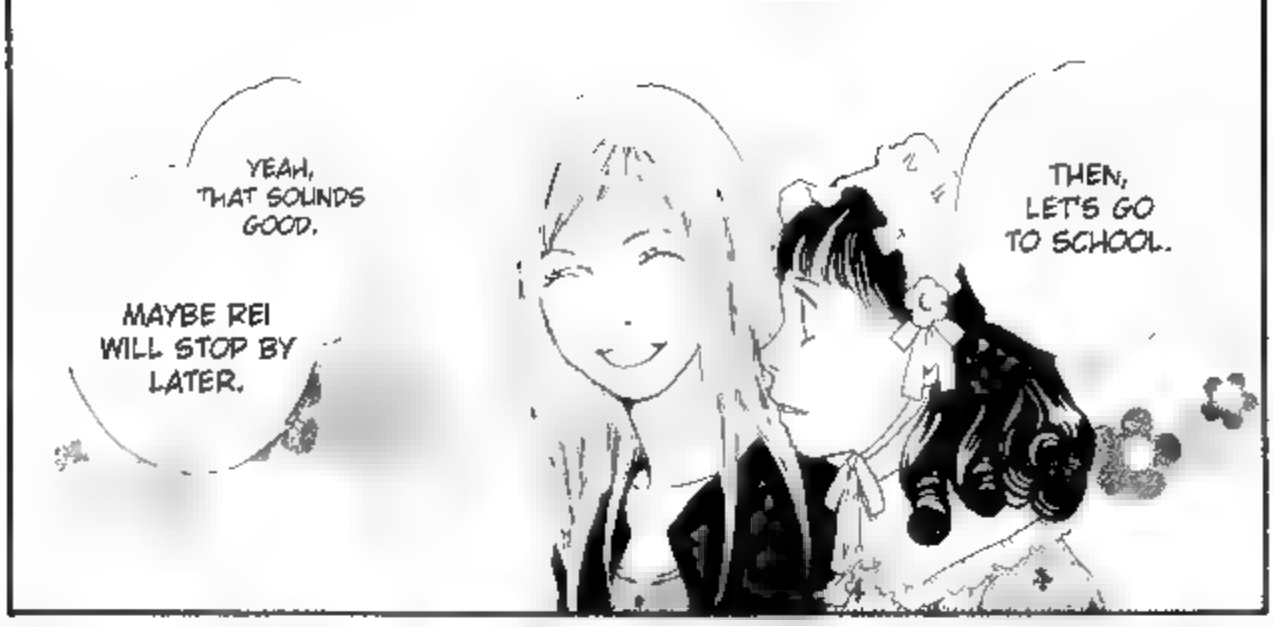
I CONTINUED THE DANCE WHERE I HAD LEFT OFF...
...THAT IN MY DREAMS, ...
I FELL ASLEEP BEFORE KOUICHI FIN-ISHED!
BUT WHEN I WOKE UP, HE WAS A-READY GONE!
I GUESS HE LEFT TO TURN IN HIS PROJECT.
SO DID I.
IT'S OKAY FOR YOU!


I HOPE HE WAS ABLE TO FINISH THE PROGRAM...
HELLO, MAASA?
WELL, HE WAS ...
THIS IS MOMIJI.
OH, WE SHOULD LET MAASA KNOW.
CAN I SEE HIS BUSINESS CARD?
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.

*Harajuku is the hot spot in Tokyo known for trendy fashion and alternative style.

CALL THE PRODUCER FROM SHUU-MARU TV RIGHT AWAY.
...
...
NO, I COME HERE FOR INSPIRATION AND THEN SEW MY OWN.
IS THIS WHERE YOU BUY YOUR CLOTHES, MOMIJI?
Hey,
ISN'T THIS CUTE?
IT HAS WINGS ON IT ..
Love
OH, WOW.
I THINK SOMETHING LIKE THIS WOULD LOOK GOOD ON YOU.
YEAH. . IT'S CUTE. MY EYES ARE TIRED FROM LACK OF SLEEP.
HEY, THEY GOT NEW STUFF!

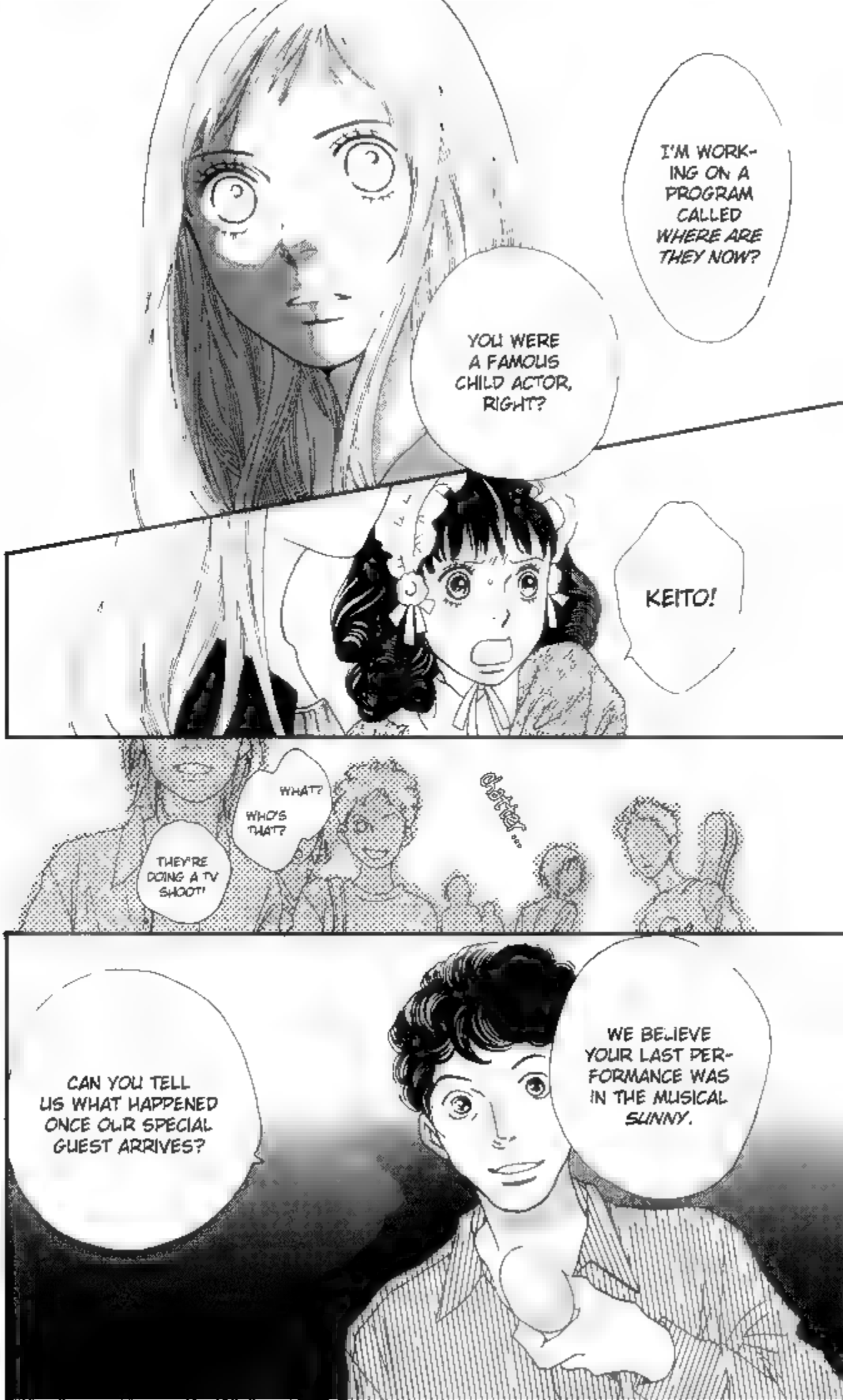
OH, NO!
I'M SORRY.
YOU PROBABLY DON'T WANT TO SEE TAIYOU THERE.
NO, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT.
UH ...
WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW?
SHOULD WE GO WATCH REI PRACTICE?
I JUST WANT TO GIVE MYSELF A LITTLE MORE TIME.
I THINK HE'LL ALWAYS BE SPECIAL TO ME...
I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM IN A WHILE.
TAIYOU...


YEAH, THAT SOUNDS GOOD.
MAYBE REI WILL STOP BY LATER.
THEN, LET'S GO TO SCHOOL.

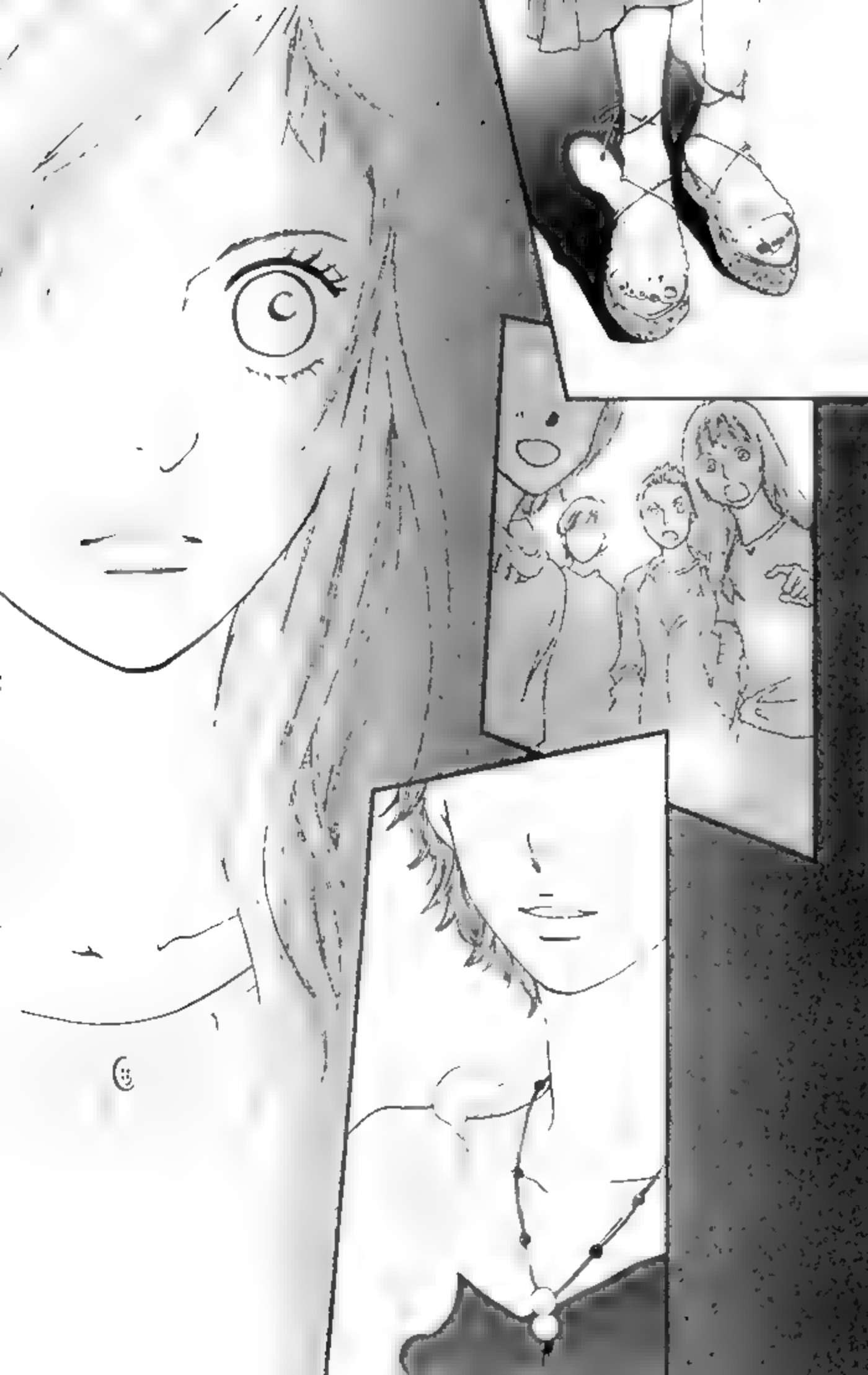
OKAY, GET THE CAMERA READY.
ISN'T THAT HER?

AOYAMA KEITO-SAN.

OH,
I THOUGHT I RECOG-NIZED YOU.
I'M FROM SHUUMARU TV. MAY I HAVE A MO-MENT OF YOUR TIME?


I'M WORKING ON A PROGRAM CALLED WHERE ARE THEY NOW?
YOU WERE A FAMOUS CHILD ACTOR, RIGHT?
KEITO!
WHAT?
WHO'S THAT?
THEY'RE DOING A TV SHOOT!
Chatter...
CAN YOU TELL US WHAT HAPPENED ONCE OUR SPECIAL GUEST ARRIVES?
WE BELIEVE YOUR LAST PERFORMANCE WAS IN THE MUSICAL SUNNY.

Ahhhh!!!
HEY, WHY ARE YOU BOTHERING US?!
I THINK YOU'RE BEING RU--



NO WAY!
IS THAT RE-ALLY--
"HELLO, MR. GOAT."
"MY NAME IS SUNNY."

NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN, KEITO.
IT'S ME, SONODA NAKO.
NAKO...

Condensation celebrates
two years of scanlating
on 9/18/2006.

We want to thank all the
mangaka who draw and create
the series we work on, the
staff who make it possible to
read these series in English,
and lastly, you, the fans, who
have supported us in our
scanlation efforts. "chu"

We appreciate your continued
support and look forward
to hearing your feedback on
our projects. Please join us or
help us in the process
if you can. m(_ _)m

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Cat Street

Chapter 10 Credits

mangaka: Kamio Youko
raw provider: suey
scanner: KageKoutetsu
translator: Elina & seku
editor: galiane
QCers: sophendo, Elina
suey & Vanderguard

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EVEN WHEN SUNNY DAYS IS OVER, WE'LL BE FRIENDS FOR-EVER.
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A HUGE FAN OF YOURS
I PROMISE.
LET'S BE FRIENDS,
KEITO.

KEITO.
YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE ANY FRIENDS.
I WON'T LET YOU HAVE THE SPOTLIGHT.
YOU MAKE ME SICK.

NAKO...
I'M SONODA NAKO.
DO YOU REMEMBER ME, KEITO?
SHE GAVE ME EVERYTHING I WANTED,
AND THEN SHE SNATCHED IT ALL AWAY.

HUH?
KEITO, YOU KNOW HER?
SONODA NAKO?!
...WHY IS SHE HERE?
WE PROM-ISED TO STAY BEST FRIENDS FOREVER,
SO I'VE REALLY WANTED TO SEE HER AGAIN.
I'M SO THRILLED TO SEE HER AGAIN.
I ORIGINALLY ENTERED THE ENTERTAINMENT BUSINESS BECAUSE OF KEITO.
HOW DO YOU FEEL? A LONG TIME HAS PASSED, BUT THE TWO OF YOU ARE FINALLY REUNITED.
HMM,
NAKO-CHAN, GIVE US A STATE-MENT!!
KEITO-SAN SEEMS TO BE FROZEN IN SHOCK.

WOW!
THEN IT'S AN EMOTIONAL REUNION, RIGHT?
WHAT DO YOU THINK UPON HEARING THAT, KEITO-SAN?
WELL? KEITO-SAN?
ARE YOU TOO SURPRISED TO SPEAK?
...CUT THE CAMERA, PLEASE.
I'M NOT AN ACTRESS ANYMORE.
YOU'RE BOTHERING ME.

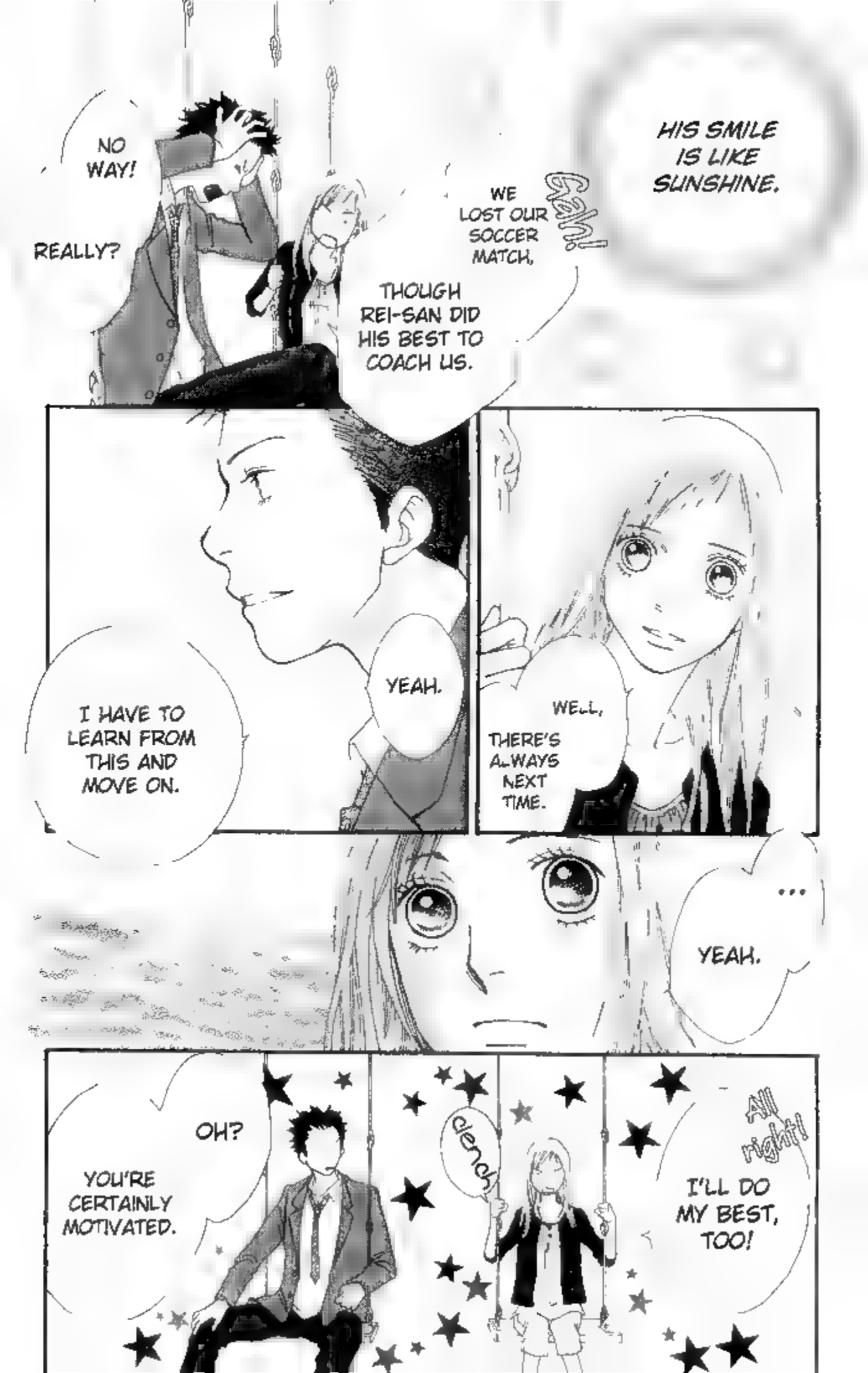
KEITO!
WHY?
WHY WAS NAKO HERE?
WAIT UP, KEITO!
MAN, I CAN'T AIR THIS.

I-IT'S OKAY.
THEY'RE NOT FOLLOWING US.
WOW, YOU'RE A FAST RUNNER.
OR MAYBE MY HIGH HEELS ARE THE PROBLEM.
SORRY, MOMIJI,
BUT THAT REALLY TOOK ME BY SURPRISE.
OF COURSE, IT DID.
A FAMOUS ACTRESS AND A TV CREW JUST APPEARED OUT OF NOWHERE.

I HAD NO IDEA THAT YOU AND SONODA NAKO USED TO BE FRIENDS.
IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO...
A REALLY LONG TIME AGO...
WHY DID SHE SUDDENLY APPEAR IN FRONT OF ME?!
YEAH.
WE COULD JUST GO HOME.
SHOULD WE GO TO SCHOOL TODAY?
NAKO MIGHT HAVE...

...ALREADY FORGOTTEN ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED IN THE PAST, BUT...
HAVE YOU BEEN LIVING UNDER A ROCK SINCE YOUR RETIREMENT?
EVEN NOW...
I CAN STILL REMEMBER THE LOOK ON HER FACE.
THE MORE I TRY TO FORGET IT...
...THE MORE IT STABS AT ME LIKE A SHARP KNIFE.
HUMPH.
WELL, LOOK WHO'S HERE.

AND I'VE EVEN BEEN HANGING AROUND THIS PARK!
I ASKED RE!-SAN ABOUT YOU...
I'VE BEEN WORRIED ABOUT YOU!
SORRY, IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
REALLY?
startled
TAIYOU!
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN AROUND AT ALL!
WHAT'S WITH YOU?
smile
YOU SEEM WELL.
AH...
...YEAH.
I AM.
IT'S SO NICE BEING AROUND TAIYOU.
JUST SEEING HIM MAKES ALL MY WORRIES GO AWAY.


NO WAY!
REALLY?
WE LOST OUR SOCCER MATCH,
Sob!
THOUGH REI-SAN DID HIS BEST TO COACH US.
HIS SMILE IS LIKE SUNSHINE.
I HAVE TO LEARN FROM THIS AND MOVE ON.
YEAH.
WELL, THERE'S ALWAYS NEXT TIME.
...
YEAH.
OH?
YOU'RE CERTAINLY MOTIVATED.
clench
All right!
I'LL DO MY BEST, TOO!

HEY, TAIYOU.
HOW'S HIRANO-SAN?
EHHH?
WHY DO YOU ASK?
UH, WELL, SHE'S DOING HER BEST AS OUR TEAM MANAGER.
WHY ARE YOU SO EMBARRASSED?
I WAS SURPRISED MYSELF THAT I COULD TALK SO NORMALLY WITH HIM.
YOU REALLY DON'T HOLD ANYTHING BACK ANYMORE.
YOU SHOULD VISIT MORE OFTEN.
OKAY.
IT'S BECAUSE NOW I HAVE A PLACE WHERE I BELONG...

I'LL BE OKAY.
WHAT HAPPENED WITH NAKO IS IN THE PAST.
HEY, KOUICHI.
'MORNING.
DID EVERYTHING WORK OUT YESTERDAY?
YEAH.
I GOT UP EARLY TO TURN IN THE PROGRAM.
THEN, I WENT HOME AND CRASHED
I...
I'M SO GLAD!
BUT, I STILL HAVE A LOT OF WORK TO DO.
WHY?
THE COMPUTER DEFEATED YOU 30 TIMES.

I REALLY NEED
TO LOWER THE COM-PUTER THINKING LEVEL FOR THAT GAME I MADE YOU.
YOU MEAN YOU HAVE TO MAKE IT DUMBER THAN ME.
I WON'T LOOK TOWARD THE PAST ANYMORE...
INSTEAD, I'LL CHERISH THIS PLACE I'VE FOUND AND LOOK TOWARD THE FUTURE.
HUH? WHY ARE THERE PEOPLE GATHERED IN THE COURTYARD?

KEI-
TO!
KOU-
ICHI!
MOMIJI.
'MORN...
OH, SHE'S
HERE.
KEITO!!

NAKO-SAN CAME HERE TO APOLOGIZE.
I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT YESTERDAY.
MY PRODUCER JUST CALLED ME UP AND TOLD ME TO COME OUT WITHOUT TELLING ME THE REASON.
THERE ARE NO CAMERAS HERE TODAY
HOW DID YOU ... FIND THIS PLACE?
GET THIS! MAASA IS NAKO-SAN'S MAKEUP ARTIST!

THIS PLACE IS SO NICE AND RELAXING.
I DON'T GO TO SCHOOL, SO I'M JEALOUS.
I WAS SHOCKED TO SEE SONODA NAKO HERE WHEN I ARRIVED THIS MORNING.
SO I WAS ALSO THERE YESTERDAY.
I KNEW THEY WERE GOING TO BE FILMING IN HARAJUKU,
MAASA IS WHAT...?
REALLY? ARE YOU SURE?
OH? WANNA ENROLL? YOU'RE MORE THAN WELCOME.
YOU RECORDED A CD THREE YEARS AGO, RIGHT? I HAVE IT.
YEAH. I DID.
BUT I DON'T SING WELL, SO I'M EMBARRASSED.
Forget about that!
ha ha ha
REALLY? THANKS.
NAKO-CHAN, I WATCHED YOUR MONDAY NIGHT DRAMA!
I-I DID, TOO.

KEITO, KOUICHI, COME SIT OVER HERE.
I WAS A BIG FAN OF HERS,
SO I WAS REALLY HAPPY.
WE WERE DOUBLE CAST IN A MUSICAL WHEN WE WERE KIDS.
HOW DO YOU KNOW KEITO, NAKO-SAN?

I worked on my previous series for so long that only recently did I realize that all I've ever done is draw manga.

I must do something else!!

I decided to sign up for a membership at a video store, but they wouldn't accept my insurance card as a form of ID.

Please show me a picture ID

But I don't carry that

Damn!

Maybe my passport would work?

That's when I decided to get a driver's license.

Beep beep

Who's this?!

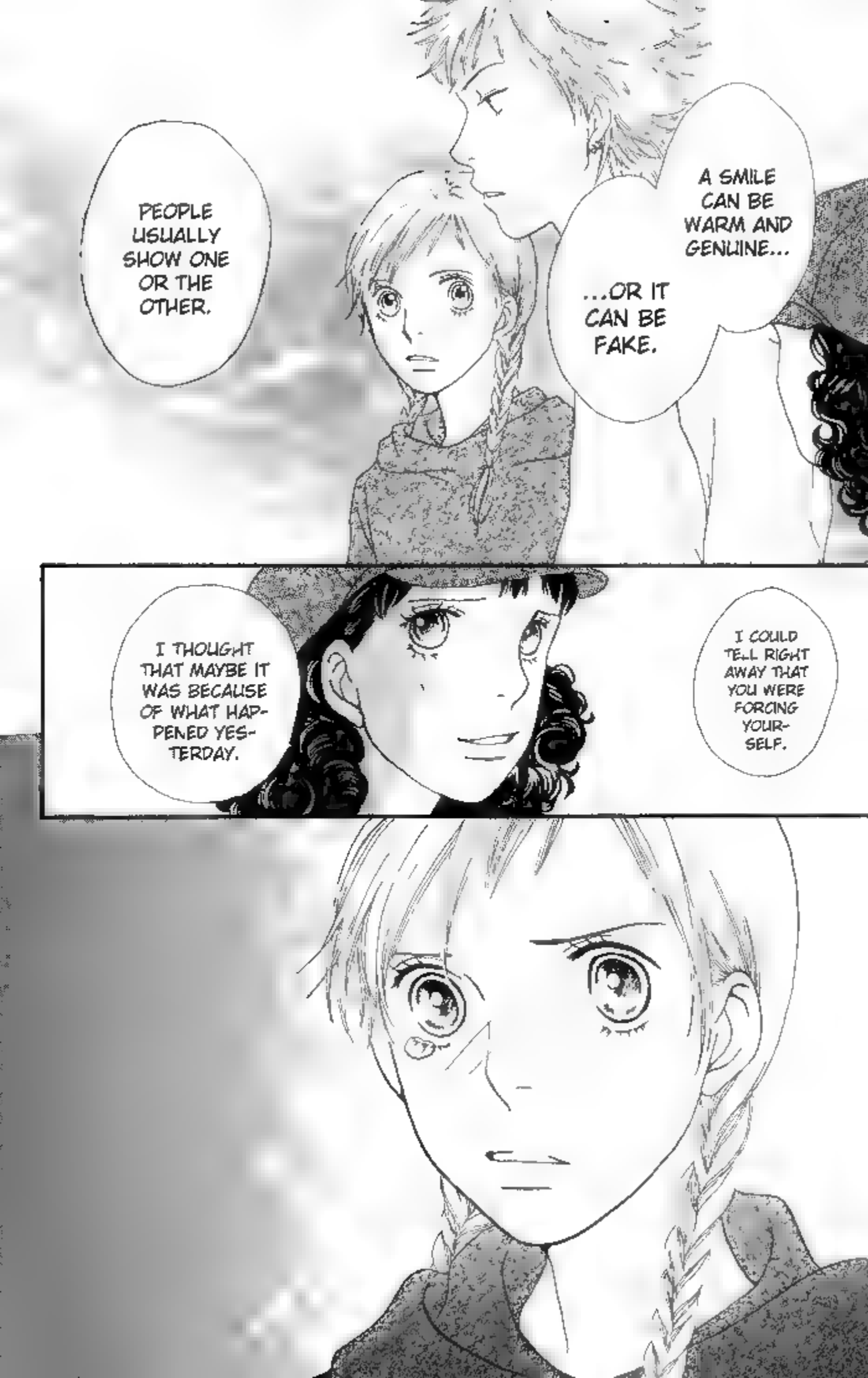
Luuuu

KEITO,
WILL YOU PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR YESTERDAY?
I MADE THEM PROMISE NOT TO AIR IT.
...
OKAY.
YAY! I'M SO GLAD!
ARE YOU HAPPY TO SEE ME AGAIN?

FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME...
WHO WAS A FORMER CHILD ACTRESS...
YEAH.
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME.
...PUTTING ON A FAKE SMILE IS EASY.
KEITO, I'M GOING TO THE COMPUTER LAB.
WANNA COME?
YEAH! I'LL GO WITH YOU!
OH, CAN I COM—
NO.

YOU'LL JUST BE IN THE WAY.
...HUH?
KOUICHI...
YOU...

YOU
KNOW...


PEOPLE USUALLY SHOW ONE OR THE OTHER.
A SMILE CAN BE WARM AND GENUINE...
...OR IT CAN BE FAKE.
I THOUGHT THAT MAYBE IT WAS BECAUSE OF WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY.
I COULD TELL RIGHT AWAY THAT YOU WERE FORCING YOURSELF.

MOMIJI-CHAN!
I DON'T THINK I CAN.
WEREN'T YOU AN ACTRESS?
THAT SURE WAS A POOR ACTING JOB.
YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO TRICK US.
DO YOU WANT TO COME TO THE STUDIO NEXT WEEK?
WHAT SHOULD I DO ABOUT INTRO-DUCING YOU TO MY STYLIST?
NO, IT'S OKAY.
THANKS FOR THE OFFER, THOUGH.

See ya!
...BUT IT SEEMS THAT'S NOT TRUE.
YOU TOLD US THAT
YOU WERE KEITO'S FRIEND.
NAKO,
IF YOU CAME BY TO APOL-OGIZE FOR YESTER-DAY,
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

I'VE CHANGED.
I'M... IN A DIFFERENT PLACE IN MY LIFE NOW.
I WISH YOU WELL.

THEIR RELATIONSHIP IS TOO STRONG TO BE BROKEN. IT'S LIKE A CHAIN.
SEE, I TOLD YOU THIS STRATEGY WOULDN'T WORK.
ARE YOU TRYING TO PREACH TO ME?
WHAT NOW, MAASA?
I WAS TOO AMBI-TIOUS.
I HAD TO STOP MODELING, SO I WAS WILLING TO DO ANYTHING TO STAY IN THE BUSINESS.
I'M THANK-FUL TO YOU.

...THAT HARD WORK AND EFFORT ISN'T NECESSARILY A BAD THING.
BUT, RECENTLY I'VE REALIZED...
YOU WON'T ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING IN THIS WORLD BY WORKING HARD.
MAASA,
ARE YOU STUPID?!
HAVE YOU LET THE CAREFREE ENVIRONMENT HERE RUB OFF ON YOU?
THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HELP.
I'LL CONTINUE TO IMPROVE MY SKILLS.

grin grin grin grin grin
YOU'RE WEIRDING ME OUT.
STOP GRINNING.

IF I COULD GO BACK IN TIME, I'D TELL MY OLD SELF—
NO, THAT WILL NEVER HAPPEN.
Are you an idiot?

I HAD TO LEARN THAT THE HARD WAY FROM MY PREVIOUS TEAMMATES. THEY REALLY BROUGHT ME DOWN A PEG WHEN THEY KICKED ME OFF THE TEAM.
THOUGH IT STILL IRRITATES ME, IT WORKED OUT FOR THE BEST.
YOU'RE WHO YOU ARE NOW BECAUSE OF WHAT HAPPENED IN THE PAST.
THAT WAS PRETTY DEEP COMING FROM YOU, REI.
OH, YEAH! DID YOU HEAR?
THE TEAM I'M COACHING NOW LOST THEIR FIRST MATCH!
STILL...
Ahhh! Damn it!
WE HAD AN INJURY ON OUR SIDE AND THEY SCORED ON A THROUGH PASS.
THE COMPETITOR'S MIDDLE FIELDER WAS REALLY GOOD.

...I'D LIKE TO SPEAK TO MY NINE-YEAR-OLD SELF...
...AND SHOW HER THIS SCENE.
...I WANT TO...
THEN...
CLACK
Scanlations

WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I WANTED TO APOLOGIZE FOR NOT TELLING YOU THAT I WAS NAKO-SAN'S MAKE-UP ARTIST.
DID YOU TIP OFF THAT PRODUCER YESTERDAY?
MAASA...
THAT WAS A DIRTY THING TO DO.
I'M NOT DENYING ANYTHING.

I COULD RELATE TO NAKO-SAN, SO I WENT ALONG WITH HER PLANS.
IT BECAME HARDER FOR ME TO GET WORK AS A COVER MODEL, SO I CHANGED CAREERS AND BECAME A MAKEUP ARTIST.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT SHE'S UP TO,
BUT SHE'S ONLY PRETENDING TO BE KEITO'S FRIEND, RIGHT?
OH, YEAH... THERE'S BEEN SOME MEAN GOSSIP
ABOUT SONODA NAKO IN RECENT MAGAZINES.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HER MOTIVES ARE, EITHER.
BANG
APOLOGIZING ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH.
KEITO.
I'M REALLY SORRY.

Don't fight!
REI?!
THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO SAY, BUT...
THIS IS ELLISTON,
AND WE ALL HAVE OUR REASONS FOR BEING HERE.
I HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT I'M NOT ONE TO TALK, EITHER.
OKAY?
YOU HAVE TO REGAIN KEITO'S TRUST
...ON YOUR OWN.

FROM NOW ON, WHEN I SMILE,
I ONLY WANT IT TO BE WARM AND GENUINE.
...THANK YOU.
WHOA! IT'S REALLY COMING DOWN.
ZSHHH
OH, MAN...
THIS IS EMBARRASSING.
OPENS
OPENS
OF COURSE HE'S PREPARED...
KEITO, WHERE'S YOUR UMBRELLA?
I DON'T HAVE ONE...
ME, NEITHER.

SEE YA TOMOR-ROW.
BYE-BYE.
Don't complain!
BECAUSE YOU'RE TALLER.
WHY DO I HAVE TO CARRY THIS UMBRELLA?
ARGH!
78HHH
DO YOU LIKE KEITO?
HM?
HEY, REI.

THAT WOULD NEVER HAPPEN.
I MEAN ...
I WOULD NEVER LET MYSELF FALL INTO THAT SITUATION.
STUPID.
SO, IT WAS JUST MY IMAGINATION, THEN?
NO WAY.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, LOLITA-CHAN?
I SEE.
SOCCER IS MY ONLY LOVE!!
Gimme back my Tsubasa-kun *
*The name of her umbrella.

DO YOU ENJOY PROGRAM-MING?
YEAH.
firmly
DO YOU HAVE ANOTHER PROGRAM DUE, KOUICHI?
YEAH.
WHEN I CREATE PRO-GRAMS AND SEE HOW WELL THEY RUN,
IT MAKES ME REALLY HAPPY.
I CAN CREATE MY OWN WORLD.
ACTING WAS LIKE THAT FOR YOU, TOO, RIGHT?
WASN'T IT FUN FOR YOU TO PRE-TEND TO BE SOMEONE ELSE?

I WOULD GET SO DEEP INTO A ROLE THAT I WOULD FORGET MYSELF.
IT WAS MORE STRANGE THAN ANYTHING ELSE.
JUST REMEMBERING THAT MAKES ME WANT TO CRAWL UNDER A TABLE AND HIDE
OH, NO! SORRY ABOUT THAT
YOU SEEMED TO BE HAVING FUN THAT TIME
YOU DANCED IN MY LIVING ROOM.
Eek!
zshhh

NAKO.
I BET YOU THINK THAT I DE-SERVE TO FALL THIS LOW.
YOU'RE LAUGHING AT ME, TOO, RIGHT?

YOU'RE—
BUT,
YOU'RE THE LOSER!
I DON'T HAVE ANY-ONE TO HELP ME.
PLEASE...!
LET'S GO.

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Cat Street

Chapter 11 Credits

mangaka: Kamio Youko
raw provider: suey
scanner: KageKoutetsu
translators: Elina and seku
editor: tram
QCers: suey, Elina & Vanderguard
color by: Minna

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CONDENSATION
WISHES A HAPPY
BIRTHDAY TO OUR
DECEMBER GIRLS!
1229
YOONOI
1223
ELINA
1202
EMICHAN
1201
KIMHEAMI
1230
BLUEJSEA

"HELP ME, KEITO."

KEITO... WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
LET'S GO HOME.

WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?
WHY IS SHE APPROACHING ME NOW?
HUH?
WOW.
SHE WAITED OUTSIDE IN THIS RAIN.
...
WHAT DOES SHE WANT FROM ME?
Scanlations

I DON'T WATCH TV AT ALL.
ME, NEITHER.
KOUICHI, CAN YOU LOOK HER UP ON THE INTERNET?
AREN'T THINGS GOING WELL FOR HER?
SURE. I CAN TRY TO FIND OUT IF THERE ARE ANY RUMORS ABOUT HER.
WHAT WAS HER NAME AGAIN?

HERE WE GO.
CLICK
CLACK
SONODA NAKO.
LET'S TALK ABOUT SONODA NAKO.
HER ACTING IS THE SAME IN EVERY ROLE SHE DOES (^^;
SHE'S NOT PARTICULARLY CUTE. SHE TRIED TO BECOME A LEADING ACTRESS, BUT MAYBE SHE SHOULD JUST RETIRE.
SHE LOST A MOVIE ROLE TO YOSHINO MARI THIS SUMMER, RIGHT? THAT SUCKS.
I HEARD SHE PISSED OFF THE DIRECTOR BY ORIGINALLY REFUSING THE ROLE.
IT'S REALLY TOUGH SURVIVING IN SHOW BIZ.
MAYBE SHE'S A VICTIM OF TYPECASTING

THANKS. THAT WAS HELP-FUL.
EVEN SO, ALL OF THOSE PEOPLE ONLY HAD NEGATIVE OPINIONS.
ARE YOU GOING TO HELP HER?
NO WAY.

he he
BESIDES, I QUIT ACTING A LONG TIME AGO.
SHE HAS TO LEARN HOW TO DEAL WITH THIS KIND OF CRITICISM ON HER OWN.
IT'S PART OF BEING FAMOUS.
I'M HEADING HOME NOW.
SORRY FOR TROUBLING YOU.
Rustle
PEOPLE LIKE YOU ARE CALLED GEEKS, RIGHT?
YOUR PLACE IS SO AWE-SOME.
YOU DEALT WITH SIMILAR ISSUES WHEN YOU WERE AN ACTRESS, RIGHT?
GAH!
WHAT?! REALLY?!
IN FACT, IT'S KIND OF RUDE.
THAT'S NOT EXACTLY A COMPLI-MENT...

THAT'S AMAZING.
YEAH, BUT THAT'S ALL IN THE PAST.
NAKO WAS RIGHT WHEN SHE CALLED ME A LOSER.
IF THAT'S SOMETHING THAT STILL BOTHERS YOU,
THEN YOU SHOULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, KOUICHI?
HUH?
OR... DO YOU PLAN TO LIVE WITH THAT REGRET FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE?
EVEN NOW, YOU'RE MAKING AN EXPRESSION THAT SAYS "PLEASE HELP ME."
WE CAN'T ALWAYS PROTECT YOU.

Y-
YOU'RE AN IDIOT, KOUICHI!
Y-YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A GEEK!
SLAM
STOMP STOMP STOMP
WHY DID HE SAY THAT?
WHAT'S HIS PROBLEM?
THAT WAS TOTALLY UNCALLED FOR!

SHHH
STOP
"DO YOU PLAN TO LIVE WITH THAT REGRET FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE?"
...HE MEANT WELL...
I KNOW THAT...
BUT...

...I HAVE NOTHING LEFT TO GIVE.
K-KEITO?
GASP
ALIGH!!!
WATCH WHAT YOU'RE DOING!
SQUISH

OKAY, THEY'RE READY TO DRY NOW.
Ceramics Glass
PUT YOUR NAME ON YOUR PIECE AND LEAVE IT ON THE TABLE IN THE BACK OF THE ROOM.
OH, NO...
UMP
Uh-oh!
PAY MORE ATTENTION!
YEAH. I'M TAKING THEM TO THE KILN.
ARE YOU GOING TO FIRE THESE?
CHATTER
CHATTER
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE HOW MINE TURNS OUT.
IT'S GREAT THAT THEY OFFER THESE KINDS OF CLASSES HERE.
AND THE CLASS FEE WAS ONLY 2000 YEN.
YEAH, NORMA. HIGH SCHOOLS DON'T HAVE THEM.
...
A sake cup?
...YOURS LOOKS AWESOME.
THANKS.
I LOVE THIS STUFF.

I STILL HAVE SAVINGS FROM WHEN I WAS AN ACTRESS.
10,000 yen
GEH!
REALLY?! WOW, THAT MUST BE A LARGE AMOUNT.
HEY, KEITO, WHAT DO YOU DO ABOUT MONEY?
ESKIMI
DO YOU GET AN A...OW-ANCE?
NO.

WHOA.
WHAT KIND OF SPENDING HABITS DO YOU HAVE?
FLAP
FLAP
MOST OF IT'S GONE A...READY.

YOU TWO DONE MAKING MUD PIES YET?
I CAUSED A LOSS TO THE THEATER GROUP...
...AND HAD TO REFUND THE AUDIENCE MEMBERS THEIR MONEY.

...
YEAH, LET'S GO.
PLEASE. THAT'S NOT MY KIND OF THING.
WANNA GET LUNCH?
YEAH, WE'RE DONE.
YOU SHOULD HAVE TAKEN THE CLASS, TOO.
BUT A GEEK!"
"I-YOU'RE NOTHING
WHAT SHOULD I SAY TO KOUICHI?
OH.
SO, WHERE SHOULD WE EAT?
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irchighwy.net

YEAH, I KNOW THE OWNER.
IT DOESN'T REALLY FIT YOUR IMAGE.
YOU'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE?
QUE
DINER
I MET THE PRINCIPAL HERE.
ALL RIGHT, LET'S TRY IT.
WHA—?! WAIT!!
♪ OKAY!
UH, HI...
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
WELCO...

THIS PLACE IS REALLY COOL.
ARE YOU AN OLD BOY-FRIEND OF HERS?
HOW DO YOU KNOW KEITO?
SEVEN YEARS AGO, HE FOUND ME HUDDLED IN THE BACK ALLEY HERE.
SAN-CHAN WAS...
NO WAY.
HE HELPED ME
AFTER I FORGOT MY LINES AND RAN OUT OF THE THEATER.
...MY SAVIOR.

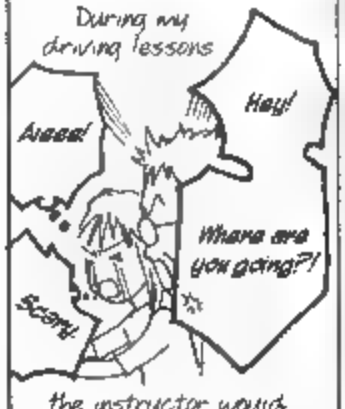
YEAH.
I WAS AFRAID THAT COMING HERE WOULD MAKE ME RELAPSE,
SO I AVOIDED THIS PLACE ON PURPOSE.
HAS IT REALLY BEEN SEVEN YEARS SINCE THEN?
TIME SURE FLIES BY.
DO YOU KNOW HIM?
SO, THE PRINCIPAL LIKES TO HANG OUT HERE?
HE'S A MYSTERIOUS GUY.
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME DESSERT?
YEAH! I'D LOVE SOME!
YEAH.
A LITTLE.

THANKS FOR THE FOOD!
IS IT REALLY OKAY?
JUST FOR TODAY.
IT'S ON THE HOUSE.
WHAT?! ARE YOU SURE WE DON'T HAVE TO PAY?!
I'VE NEVER MADE YOU PAY, EITHER.
IT'S FINE.
YEAH...
I DIDN'T EVEN RECOGNIZE YOU AT FIRST.
YOU'VE CHANGED A LOT.
THANKS, SAN-CHAN.

DRIVING SCHOOL PART TWO

I haven't had to attend any classes since high school

During my driving lessons



the instructor would get mad and yell at me

I'd end up crying in the bathroom

FOUR MONTHS LATER

Though I failed on my first try, I managed to get a temporary license the second time around

All those people have a license?
Whenever I stand on the neighborhood overpass I find myself wondering about all the people below

My temporary license will expire in three months Oh, no! I must go!

FROWN
HEY, WASN'T SAN-CHAN COOL?
YOU'RE ALWAYS LIKE THAT WITH GUYS.
...I'M SORRY
ABOUT YESTERDAY.
BUT...
I'M NOT SURE WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT.
I KNOW WHAT YOU WERE TRYING TO SAY...
AND I REALLY DON'T WANT TO REGRET MY PAST FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE...

YOU ALREADY KNOW WHAT TO DO
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
JUST START SLOWLY AND TAKE THINGS ONE STEP AT A TIME.

KEITO.
MAASA ...
HEY, DID YOU SPEAK WITH NAKO-SAN YESTERDAY?
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
DID SHE MENTION ANYTHING TO YOU ABOUT AN ACTING JOB?
I DID.

I'M SONODA NAKO'S MANAGER.
I CAN'T FIND NAKO ANY-WHERE!
SHE JUST LEFT A NOTE
AND DISAPPEARED.
DISAPPEARED?
"HELP ME,
KRRO.
Sensation Scanlations

YOU'RE AOYAMA KEITO-SAN, RIGHT?
S-SORRY.
BUT I DON'T KNOW.
AUGH! WHERE DID SHE GO?!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA?
IN HER NOTE,
NAKO TOLD ME TO SPEAK TO YOU ABOUT THIS JOB SHE'S SKIPPING.
SHE WANTS ME TO DO A JOB...
...IN HER PLACE?

BUT, SHE CAN'T AFFORD TO BE PICKY RIGHT NOW.
SHE DOESN'T WANT TO DO IT.
IT'S A MUSIC VIDEO FOR A NEW BAND.
I DON'T WANT TO PASS THIS JOB TO ANOTHER AGENCY.
IF NAKO REFUSES ANY MORE JOBS...
...SHE'LL RUIN BOTH OUR CA-REERS.
WHY SHOULD KEITO HELP HER?
THEN, THAT'S HER PROBLEM. SHE'S BEING REALLY SELFISH.
PLEASE,
I'M BEGGING YOU.
SHE MUST BE AROUND SOMEWHERE. WHY DON'T YOU TRY LOOKING FOR HER?

DIDN'T YOU WALK OUT ON THE PRODUCTION OF *SUNNY DAYS* ON THE FIRST NIGHT?
I ALREADY SAID N—
NAKO HAD TO PLAY THE LEAD ROLE ON HER OWN,
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS ORIGINALLY DOUBLE CAST.
SO, PLEASE...!

MAASA,
CAN YOU DO MY MAKEUP?
OF COURSE.
I'LL MAKE YOU GORGEOUS

THIS IS MY CHANCE...
JUST THIS ONCE, I'LL AGREE TO TAKE HER PLACE.
...TO MAKE UP FOR MY PAST.
I'LL DO MY BEST WITH THIS PERFORMANCE AND HAVE NO MORE REGRETS.

I'LL BELIEVE IN MYSELF AND MOVE FORWARD WITH MY OWN STRENGTH.

KEITO
LOOKS DIFFERENT.
THAT'S A NICE TOP.
YEAH, IT'S REALLY CUTE.
YOU'VE GOT GOOD TASTE.
SHE DOESN'T SEEM AS SCARED
OR NERV-OUS AS SHE WAS WHEN WE FIRST MET HER.
SHE LOOKS INNO-CENT...
BECAUSE OF THE MAKEUP?
NO.

ALMOST LIKE A BABY...
AND ANGELIC ...
THAT'S WHAT SHE REMINDS ME OF...
HOW ARE THINGS GOING?
ARE YOU ALMOST READY TO GO?
I TOLD THEM THAT YOU WERE GETTING YOUR HAIR AND MAKEUP DONE OVER HERE.

WOW...
OKAY.
KEITO, YOU LOOK REALLY CUTE!
THIS JUST MIGHT WORK
YOU LOOK GREAT.
NOOOOO!
ALL RIGHT.
LET'S GO NOW.

GOOD LUCK.
THANKS.
KOUICHI,
DO I STILL LOOK HELPLESS TO YOU?
NOT AT ALL.
YOU LOOK AS CONFIDENT AS A PRO.

I'M TAKING OFF NOW.
COME BACK WHEN IT'S OVER.
WE'LL BE WAITING!

THE SONG IS ABOUT A GIRL WHO'S JUST STARTING TO LIVE ON HER OWN.
YOU'LL BE SHOOTING SEPARATELY FROM THE BAND.
THE MUSIC VIDEO IS SUPPOSED TO BE THREE MINUTES LONG.
THEY'VE SET UP THE STUDIO TO LOOK LIKE AN APARTMENT.
THAT'S WHERE THE SHOOT WILL TAKE PLACE.
SHE'S LONELY, BUT HOPEFUL...
SHE'S JUST MOVED TO A NEW PLACE AND HER ONLY FRIEND IS A PLANT ON HER DECK.

NO, I DON'T NEED THEM.
YOU'LL NEED EYE DROPS, RIGHT?
OH, AND THERE'S A CRYING SCENE.
REALLY?

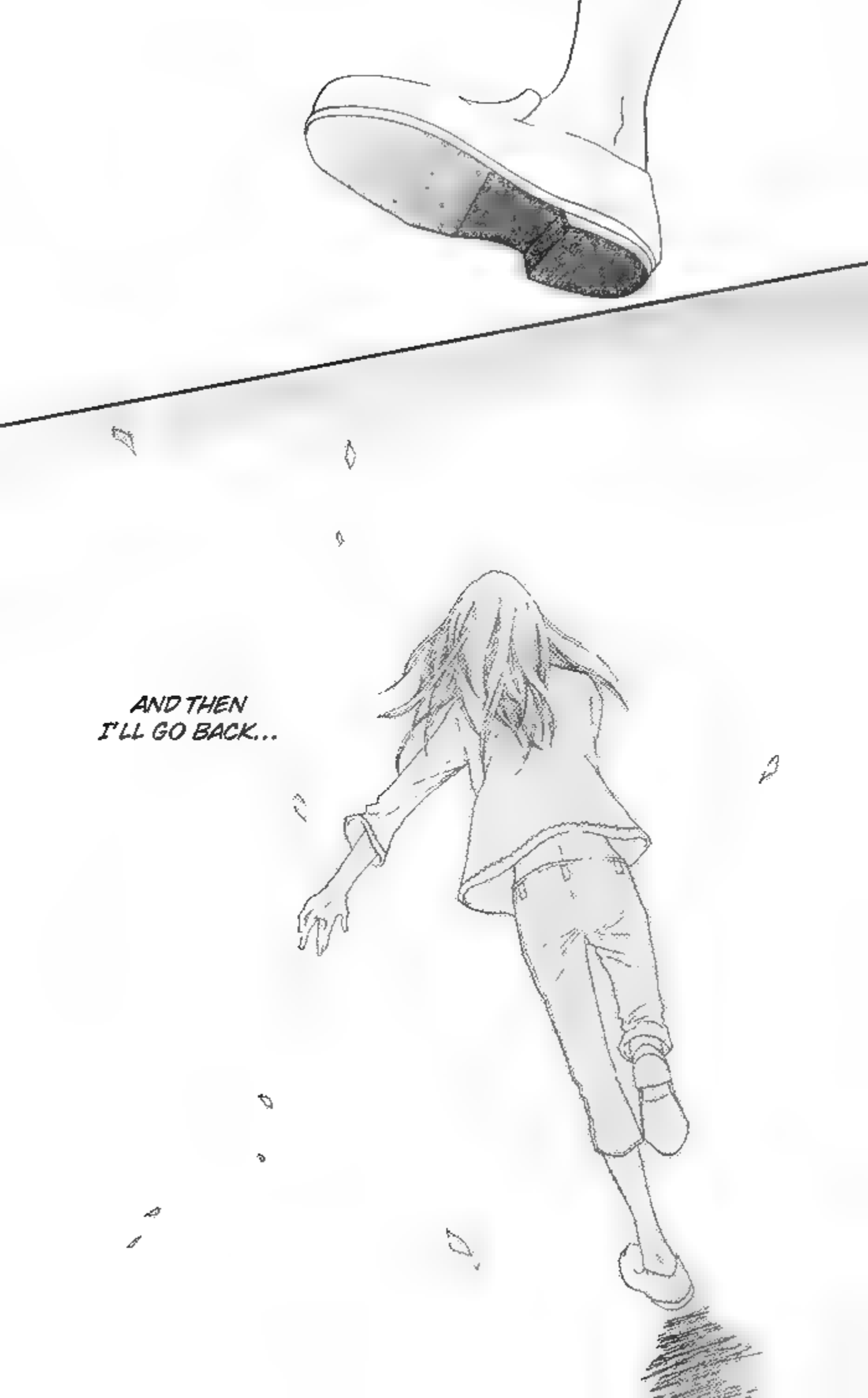
THAT MAY BE TRUE, BUT IT'S BEEN MANY YEARS SINCE HER LAST PERFORMANCE.
CAN SHE REALLY DO IT?
SHE WAS CONSIDERED A PRODIGY.
SHE STARRED IN MANY COMMERCIALS AND DRAMAS WHEN SHE WAS A KID.
AOYAMA KEITO?

Scanlations

I'M NOT DOING THIS FOR NAKO.

I'M DOING THIS FOR ME.

HEY, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
BADUMP
I'M FINALLY RE-TURNING...
BADUMP
...TO THE WORLD I LEFT BEHIND.
BADUMP
I'LL GIVE IT EVERYTHING I'VE GOT.


AND THEN
I'LL GO BACK...

...TO THE PLACE
WHERE I BELONG.

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THIS IS MY CHANCE...
JUST THIS ONCE, I'LL AGREE TO TAKE HER PLACE.
...TO MAKE UP FOR MY PAST.
I'LL DO MY BEST WITH THIS PERFORMANCE AND HAVE NO MORE REGRETS.

DID YOU READ THE LATEST REPORT?
APPARENTLY, CONDENSATION HAS REACHED 200 RELEASES.
200 MAY NOT SEEM LIKE A LOT (>_<), BUT IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT,
THAT MAKES UP MORE THAN 35 VOLUMES OF MANGA, OVER 7,000 PAGES, COUNTLESS BUBBLES, SFX...
and how many parodies??

Enjoy our 200th release.

A little bit more on what 200 means in terms of releases. On average, did you know that we spend about 15 hours on each release between scanning, translating, PAing, editing, and QCing? And that's a conservative estimate. With 200 releases, that's about 3000 hours we've spent scanlating. At a low wage of $7.50, with that many hours we could have made $22,500. That amount of money is more than the government says feeds and houses, etc. a family of four for a year. And we do this for free. We want to thank those of you who have supported us from release #1, #2, #3, and all the way down the line

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Cat Street

Chapter 12 Credits

mangaka: Kamio Youko
raw provider: suey
scanner: KageKoutetsu
translator: Elina
editor: tram
QCers: sophendo, suey, Elina, and Vanderguard

We do not give permission to rescanlate our releases.

We do not give permission to rescanlate our releases.

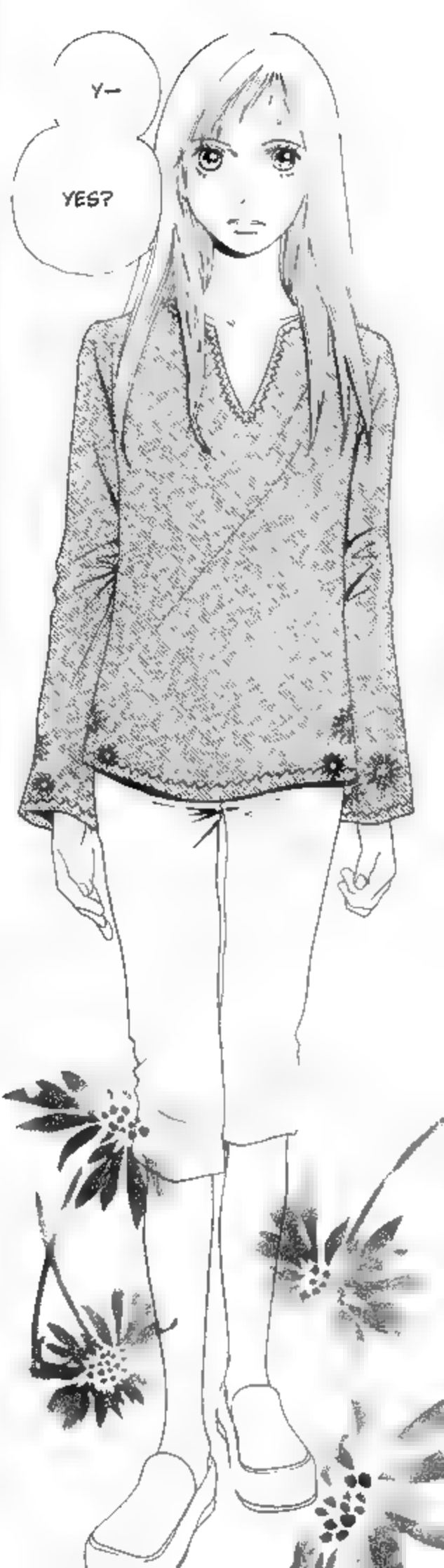
"THAT'S NOT TRUE."
"YOU ALREADY KNOW WHAT TO DO."
"JUST START SLOWLY AND TAKE THINGS ONE STEP AT A TIME."

I WANT TO APOLOGIZE FOR THE TROUBLE WE'VE CAUSED YOU.
GOOD MORNING.
I'M SORRY WE'RE LATE.
DIRECTOR, THE MANAGER IS HERE.
PLEASE EXCUSE SONODA NAKO'S ABSENCE.
I'VE ALREADY PREPARED ANOTHER ACTRESS FOR YOU.
OH,
THANK YOU FOR COMING.
KEITO!
HER NAME IS AOYAMA KEITO.

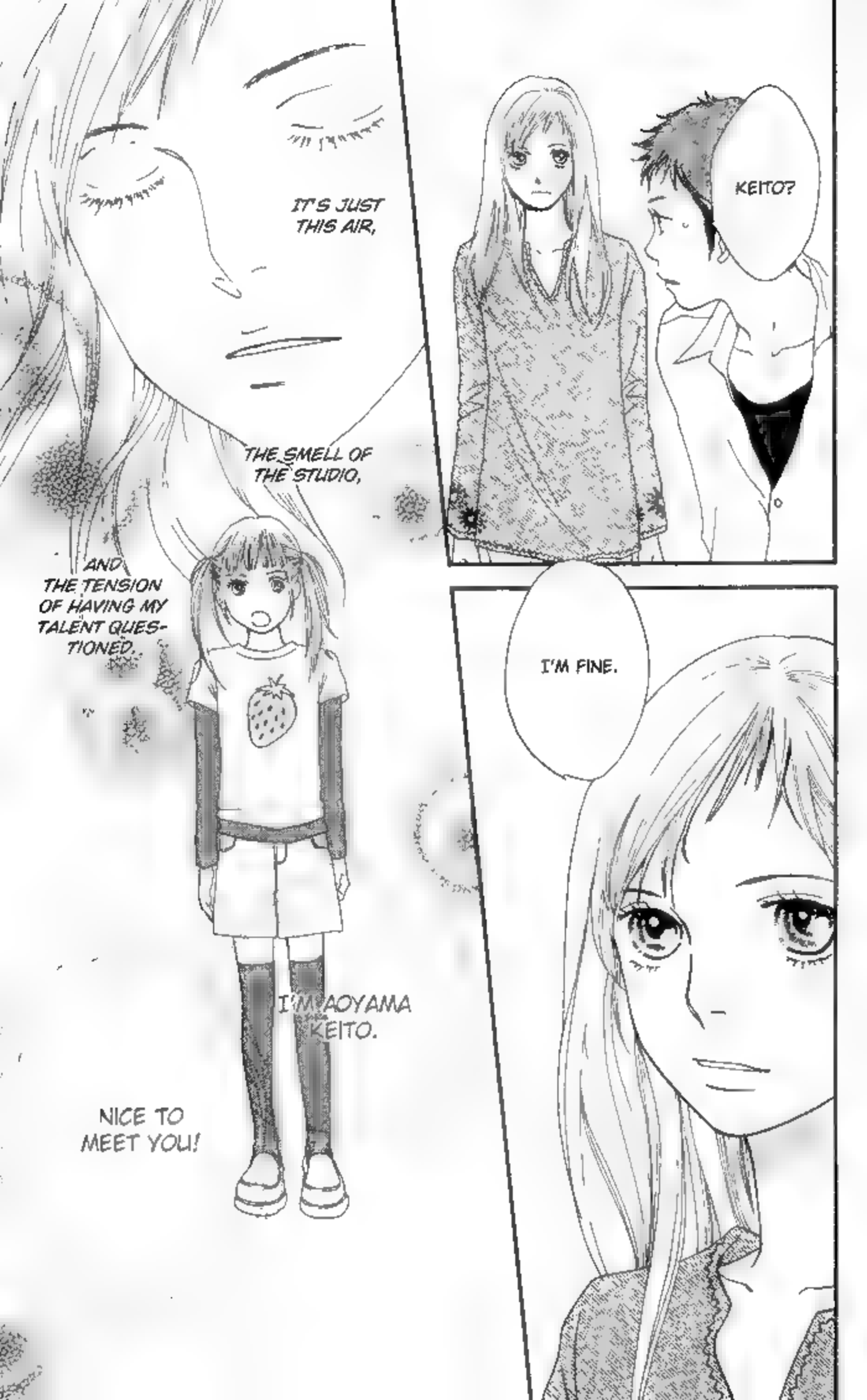
OH.
Keito, they're waiting for you to greet them.
G-GOOD MORNING.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO ABOUT HER OUT-FIT?
...
Morning.

WHAT SHE HAS ON IS FINE.
I SHOULD WARN YOU, THOUGH.


Y—
YES?

...GOOD LUCK.
DEPENDING ON YOUR PERFORMANCE, I MAY DECIDE TO PULL YOU FROM THE SHOOT, SO...
OKAY.
KEITO, LET'S FIX YOUR MAKEUP.
THIS WILL NEVER WORK.
WE'LL PROBABLY HAVE TO DO A RESHOOT WITHOUT HER TOMORROW.
HEY, SHE CAN HEAR YOU.
SO, SONODA NAKO THINKS SHE'S TOO GOOD TO DO A MUSIC VIDEO FOR A NEW BAND, DOES SHE?
SHE'S JUST AN AMATEUR.


KEITO?
I'M FINE.
IT'S JUST THIS AIR,
THE SMELL OF THE STUDIO,
AND THE TENSION OF HAVING MY TALENT QUESTIONED.
I'M AOYAMA KEITO.
NICE TO MEET YOU!

YOU KNOW THE SETTING, RIGHT?
THIS WILL BE YOUR APART-MENT.
THE IDEA IS THAT YOU'RE JUST STARTING TO LIVE ON YOUR OWN,
SO MOVE AROUND THE ROOM AND TRY TO ACT NAT-URALLY.
...MOVE AROUND?
SHE'LL HAVE NO CLUE WHAT TO DO.
HE'S SO MEAN.
OKAY, SCENE ONE.
OH, MAN.
WHO CARES?
OH,
WHAT TIME OF THE DAY IS IT SUP-POSED TO BE?
WE'RE PRESSED FOR TIME, SO LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH.
HUH?
THEN...
I'LL PICK MORNING.
HEY, DID YOU GET A HOLD OF STAR PRO?
I'M CALLING THEM NOW.

She's lonely...
THEY SAY SAYURI-CHAN, THE RISING BIK'NI MODEL, MIGHT BE AVAILABLE TOMORROW.
OKAY, START.
SOUNDS GOOD. I'LL LEAVE YOU TO DO THE NEGO-TIATIONS.
But...
...she's still got hope...

SHUK
THE SUN'S SO BRIGHT.
She's still got a friend...

A plant on her veranda...

HELLO, MY FRIEND.
DIRECTOR, SAYURI-CHAN AGREED TO DO IT.
NEVER MIND. CANCEL THE DEAL.
HUH?! BUT...
WELL, I'LL BE...
WOW.

A KID WHO SUDDENLY EXUDES THE AURA OF A PROFES-SIONAL.
MAASA... WAS SHE...
YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE HER? ANYONE FROM MY GENERATION WOULD.
...REALLY A RECLUSE?

SHE'S THE GIFTED CHILD ACTRESS, AOYAMA KEITO.
OH, I HOPE IT'S GOING WELL.
IT'S BEEN FIVE HOURS NOW.
That's why you're so skinny! (Not making sense)
WHAT?! DID YOU JUST CALL ME ANNOY-ING?!
SHOCKED
CLACK CLACK
JEEZ, WHERE'S REI?!
YOU'RE BEING ANNOY-ING.
CAN YOU BELIEVE SHE'S ACTUALLY DOING THIS?
HUFF HUFF
HEY, KOUICHI, ARE YOU EVEN LISTEN-ING?!

HEY, MISAKI-CHAN.
SORRY ABOUT HOW THINGS HAVE BEEN LATELY.
IT'S REI.
REI?!
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? WHY HAVEN T YOU BEEN ANSWERING MY CALLS?
I ALREADY SAID THAT I'M SORRY.
WHY DID YOU IGNORE ME FOR A MONTH?!
LISTEN, I NEED TO TELL YOU SOME-THING.
WHAT?
I THINK WE SHOULD STOP SEE NG EACH OTHER.
HUH?
ARE YOU SERI-OUS?! YOU JERK!
WHOA!
MY EAR HURTS.
MISAKI ... DELETED.

YOU HAD A GIRLFRIEND?
WELL, NOT EXACTLY.
IT WAS ALL PHYSICAL...
Maybe Mayuko is next!
YOU MEAN, SHE WAS LIKE A WRESTLING PARTNER?
STARTLED
N-NO.
DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT THAT COMMENT SUGGESTS?
KEITOOO —
AUHHH!

YOURS...
BLUSH
...
SO, HOW DID IT GO?
C'MON, TELL US!
O-OH, YEAH.
I LUCKED OUT.

I WASN'T SURE WHAT THEY WANTED AT FIRST,
BUT IT TURNED OUT TO BE SIMILAR TO WHAT I DO EVERY DAY, SO...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
EXPLAIN!

KOUICHI,
WAS IT FUN?
I GAVE IT MY BEST SHOT.
...
YEAH.
I FEEL AS IF...
I ACCOM-PLISHED SOMETHING.

YOU MIGHT GET ANOTHER JOB AFTER THIS!!
Wahhh!
I DOUBT IT.
WITH THIS EXPERI-ENCE, I REALIZED THAT...

I DON'T WANT TO DEPEND ON MY FRIENDS FOR EVERYTHING.
...AND BE THERE FOR THEM LIKE THEY'RE THERE FOR ME.
I JUST WANT TO WALK BESIDE THEM...

HMM...
I FEEL KIND OF SAD NOW.
YOU'RE NOT MAKING SENSE
IT'S LIKE I'M SEEING MY GROWN BUTTERFLY FLY AWAY.
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
I FEEL LIKE A FATHER WHO'S SAYING GOODBYE TO HIS DAUGHTER AS SHE LEAVES HER HOME FOREVER.
ABOUT WHAT?
HON-ESTLY, I WAS AFRAID ...
...THAT YOU WOULDN'T BE COMING BACK.

NOTHING. IT WAS JUST A JOKE.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING ...?
UH... THAT SOUNDED STUPID
REI...?

ARE YOU SURE I CAN KEEP THIS?!
WHOA, THERE'S 50,000 YEN IN HERE.*
YEAH. NAKO'S MANAGER, TAKASHIMA-SAN, WAS GRATEFUL, TOO.
*About ¥500.
YOUR PAYCHECK.
WHAT'S THIS, MAASA?
I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT.
YOU WERE REALLY AWESOME.
IT'S FROM NAKO.
FOR WHAT?
A TICKET ...?
SHE WANTED TO PAY YOU IN PERSON, BUT I TOLD HER NOT TO.
AND... THIS IS FOR YOU, TOO.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO UNLESS YOU WANT TO.
BUT, SHE STILL HASN'T SHOWN UP TO WORK.
SHE ASKED ME TO GIVE IT TO YOU.
HER AGENCY IS DESPERATELY SEARCHING FOR HER, SO...
Sunny Days

THIS IS THE FIFTEENTH PRODUCTION...
I WAS IN THE SIXTH ...
THIS IS THE THEATER WHERE THEY'RE PERFORMING THE MUSICAL.
MOMMY, I WANT TO AUDITION FOR THE ROLE OF SUNNY.
WHY DID NAKO...
...GIVE THIS TICKET TO ME?
The Musical Sunny Days
Original Story by
Matthew Tulachan
The 15th Production
All seats reserved
¥5,500
+ sales Tax
9/2x
All seats reserved
¥5,500
Row H

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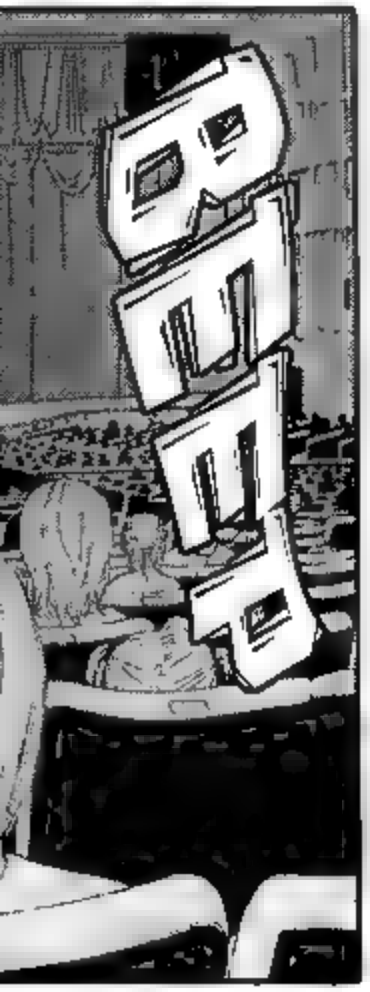
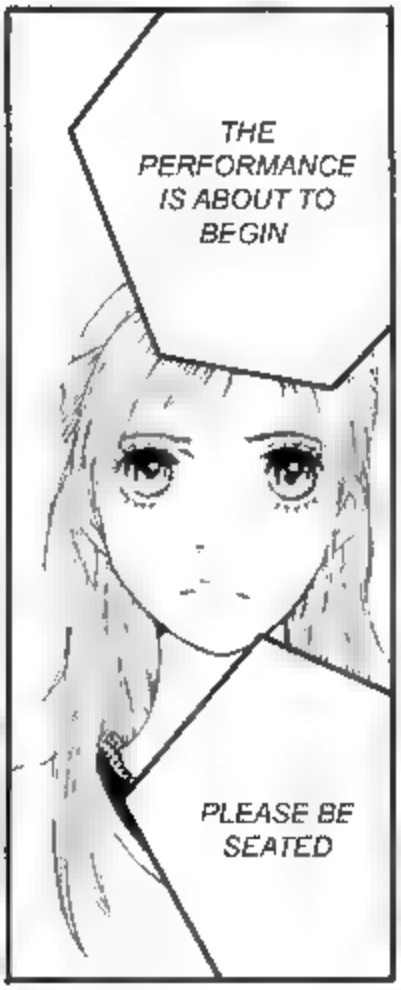
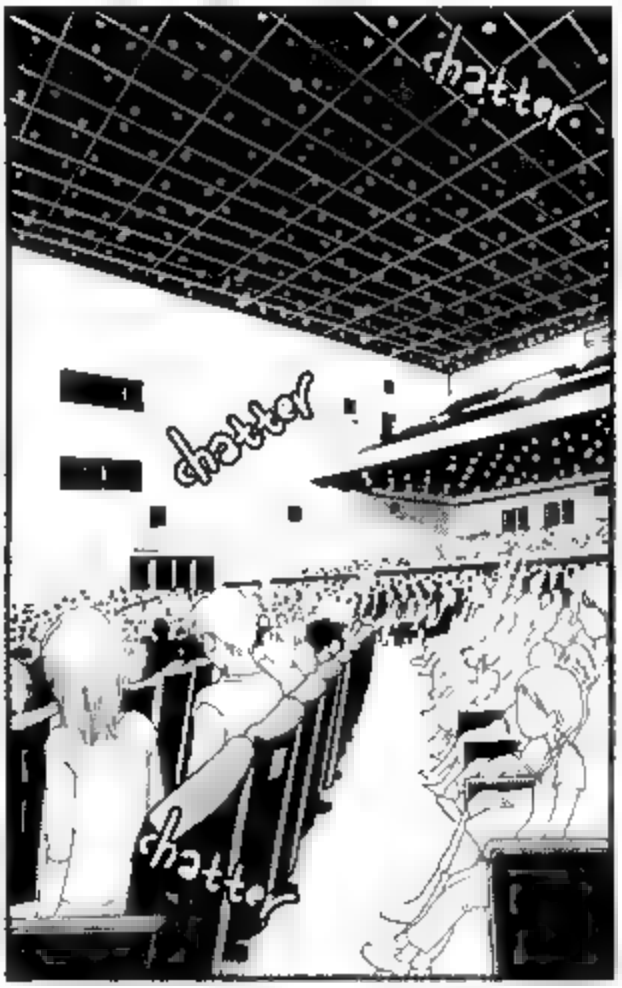
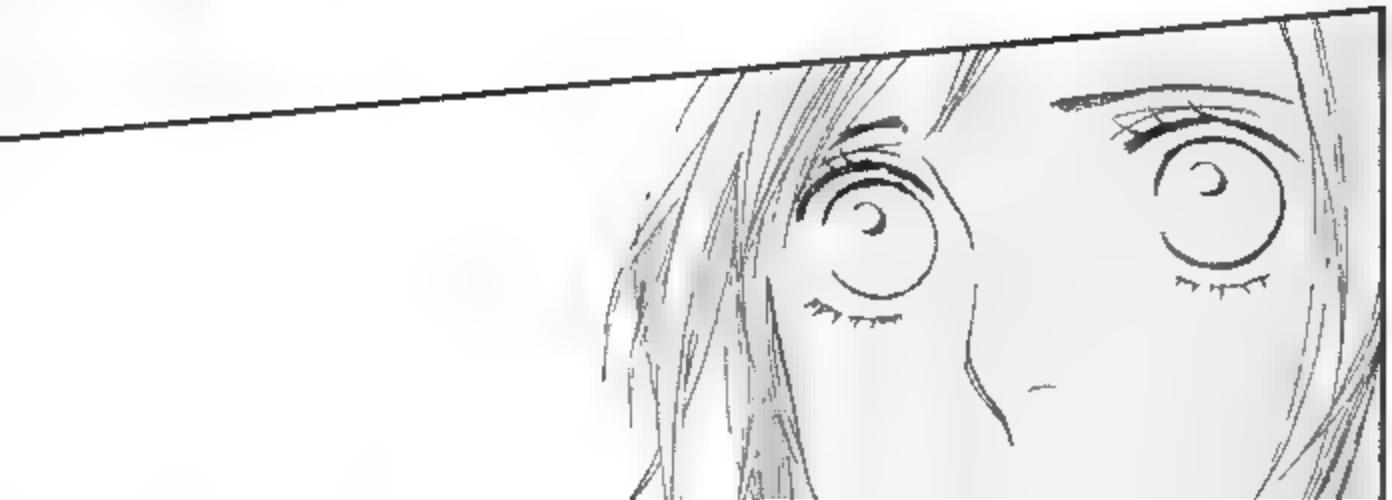
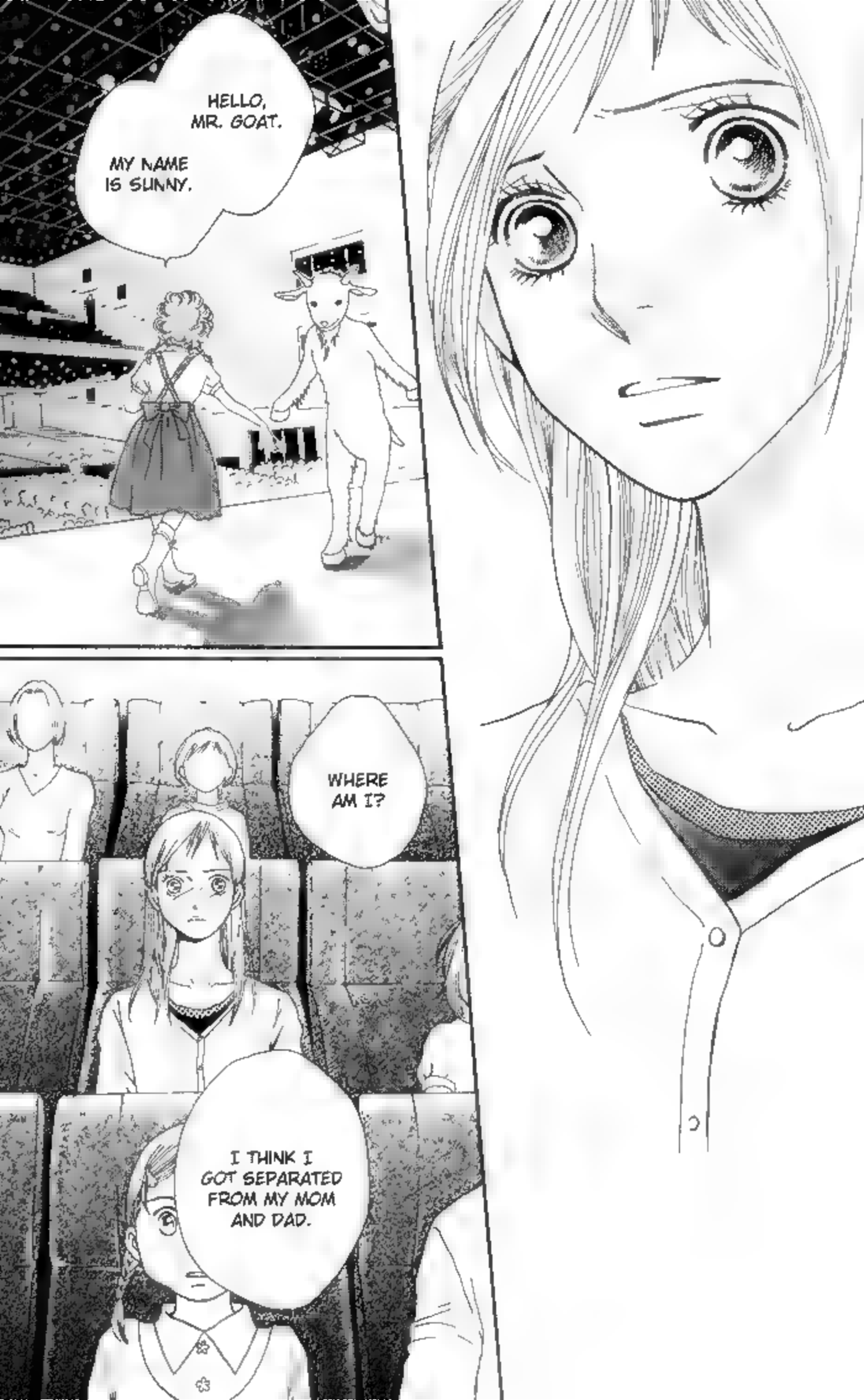



THE PERFORMANCE IS ABOUT TO BEGIN
PLEASE BE SEATED

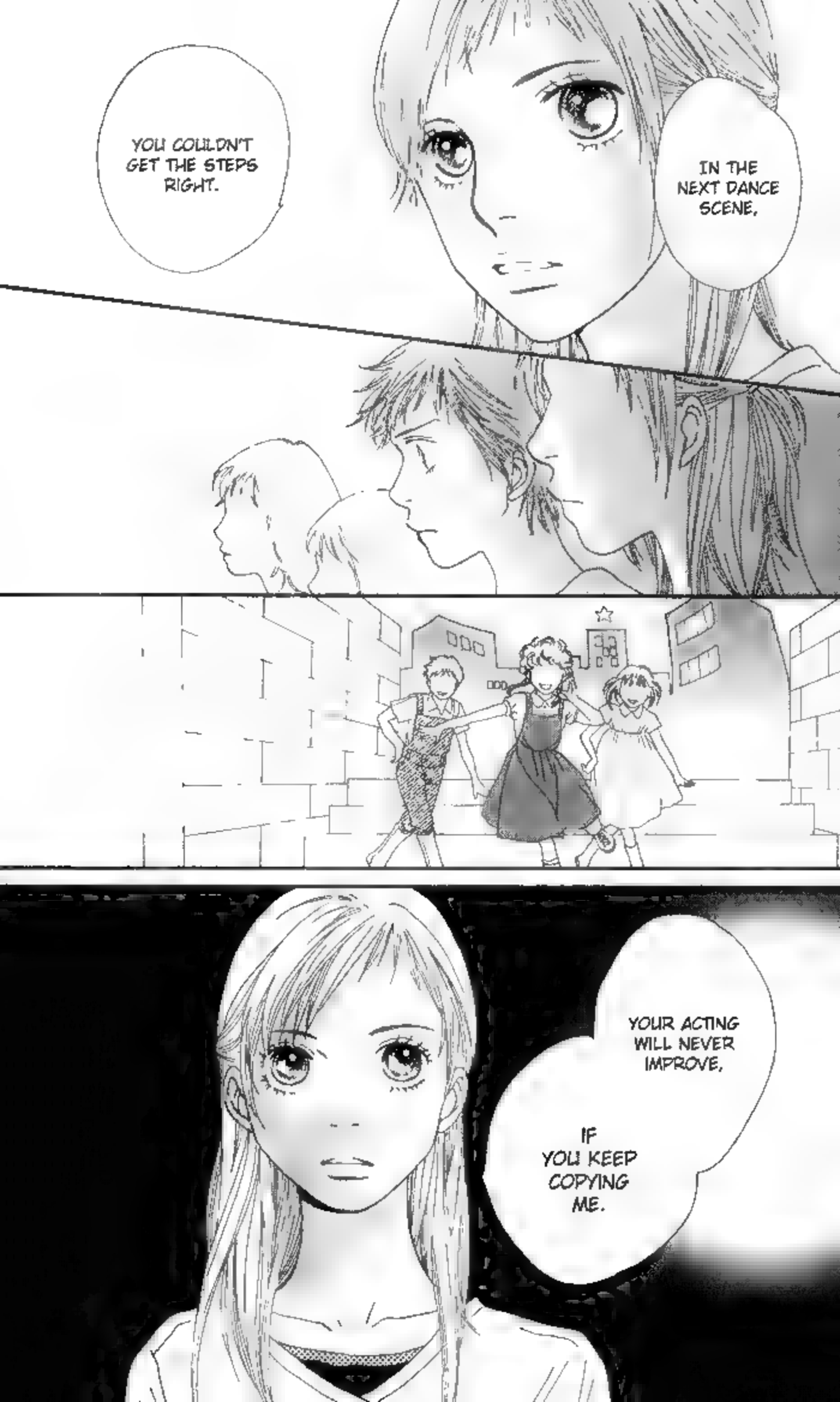

chatter
chatter
chatter




HELLO, MR. GOAT.
MY NAME IS SUNNY.
WHERE AM I?
I THINK I GOT SEPARATED FROM MY MOM AND DAD.

HEY,
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
I NEED TO FIND MY MOM AND DAD.
"KEITO, IT'S A FULL REHEARSAL TODAY, RIGHT? GOOD LUCK."
"HANG IN THERE."
"TAKE IT EASY."
"KEITO HAS ARRIVED."
"OH, THE CHILD STAR IS HERE."
"MORNING, KEITO."
"LET'S DO OUR BEST TODAY."
"OKAY!"
THAT'S RIGHT... NOT ALL OF IT WAS BAD.

DID YOU FILL IN FOR ME?
SO, HOW DID IT FEEL TO BE ACTING AGAIN?
GOOD.
THANKS.
YEAH.
IF YOU WERE TO COME BACK, YOU'D GET THE SAME ATTENTION YOU GOT AS A CHILD STAR—


YOU COULDN'T GET THE STEPS RIGHT.
IN THE NEXT DANCE SCENE,
YOUR ACTING WILL NEVER IMPROVE,
IF YOU KEEP COPYING ME.

BACK THEN, I DIDN'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS AT SCHOOL.
ACTING WAS ALL I HAD.
I WAS REALLY HAPPY...
WHEN WE BECAME FRIENDS
I DID IT, KEITO!
KEITO!

I WANTED YOU TO DISAPPEAR.
JUST WHEN I'D FINALLY WORKED HARD ENOUGH TO BE ONSTAGE WITH YOU..
THE DIRECTOR, THE PRODUCER, AND EVERYONE ELSE..
COULDN'T STOP RAVING ABOUT YOU.
I'VE ALWAYS ENVIED YOU.
AND WANTED TO BE YOU.
REMEMBER HOW I COLLAPSED ON THE FIRST DAY?
NAKO HAS COLLAPSED!
I FAKED IT.
PLEASE LET ME PERFORM.
I CAN DO IT.

I KNEW THAT THEY'D BE IMPRESSED IF I INSISTED ON PERFORMING ANYWAY.
IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO WIN AGAINST YOU.
"NAKO, THAT WAS A JOB WELL DONE."
CHATTER
CHATTER
THIS CONCLUDES THE PERFORMANCE TODAY
FLICKER
YAY!
clap
I HAD...
...NO CLUE AT ALL.
clap
clap

chatter
MOM-MY,
THAT WAS GOOD.
chatter
chatter
chatter
YOU STILL HAVEN'T REALIZED YOUR GREATEST STRENGTH, HAVE YOU?

YOU'RE SO CAUGHT UP IN SEEING ME AS YOUR RIVAL
THAT YOU'RE MISSING THE MOST IMPORTANT POINT
WAIT, KEITO!

I KNOW THAT I SAID SOME HORRIBLE THINGS TO YOU,
AND I MADE FUN OF YOU FOR NOT HAVING ANY FRIENDS.
BUT I HAVE NO ONE TO STAND BESIDE ME NOW.
IT'S THAT KIND OF WORLD,
NAKO.
I FELT THE SAME WAY.
I EXPERI-ENCED THAT, TOO.

I KNOW!
SO...
I'LL WORK HARD AND BECOME...
...A GREATER ACTRESS THAN YOU.
BECAUSE THAT'S WHO I AM—SONODA NAKO.
TOMORROW...
...NAKO WILL PROBABLY SHOW UP AT WORK LIKE NOTHING EVER HAPPENED.

AND SHE'LL TRY HER BEST TO SUCCEED AGAIN.

I NO LONGER NEED TO HOLD ON TO MY PAST.
SO, GOODBYE, SUNNY.
GOOD-BYE, MY OLD SELF.

Greetings.

Thank you for reading all the way to the end!

Though it's unrelated to Cat Street, my previous work, Hana Yori Dango, has been dramatized in Japan

This is all due to everyone who supported HanaDan. Thank you very much!

I haven't announced it yet, but I intend to draw a sequel to Hanadan in the future. I'll continue to do my best!

I hope everyone is enjoying life!

I'll see you again in Volume 4!!

Kamio Yoko

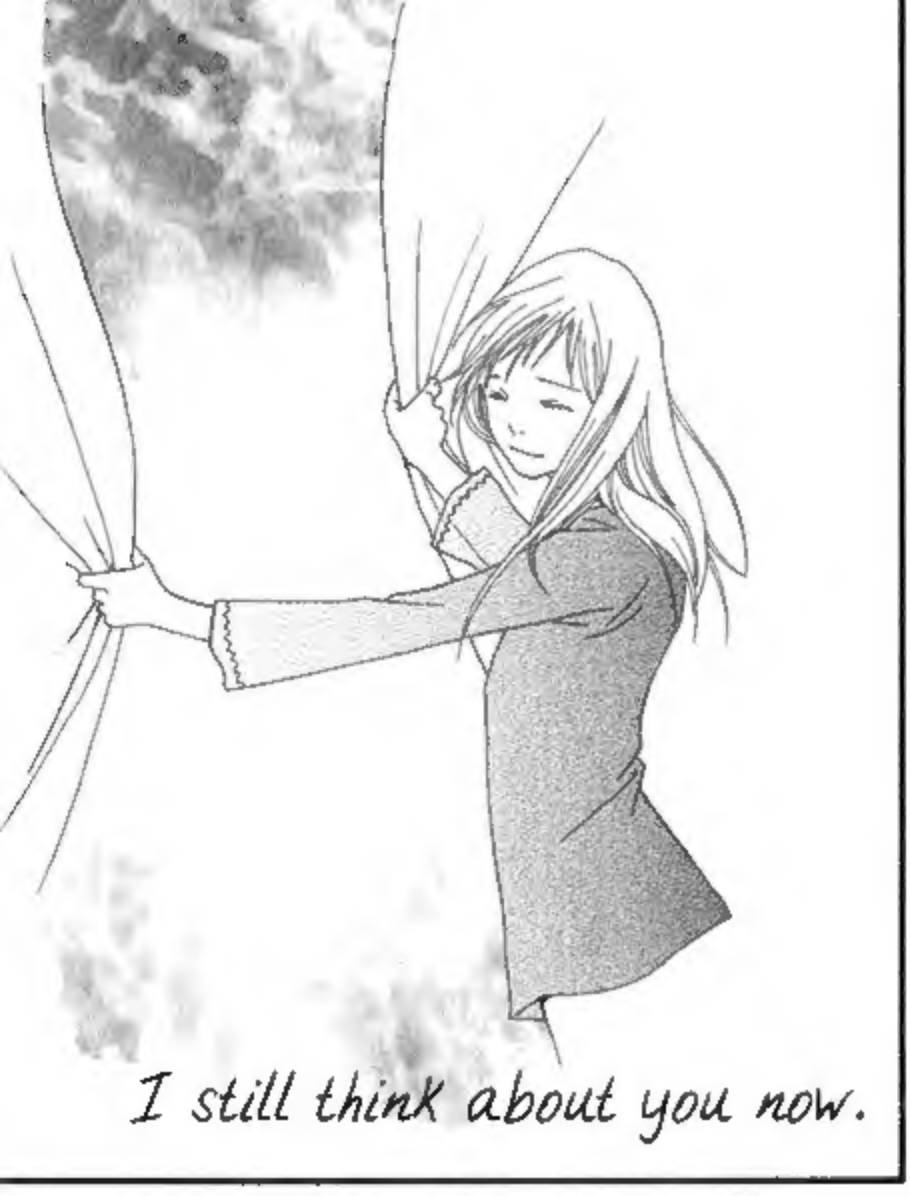
HEY, SONODA NAKO WAS ON TV THIS MORNING.

OH, SHE HAD THE GUTS TO GO BACK TO WORK?

KEITO, DID YOU SEE IT?
NO, I DIDN'T.
SHE STATED VERY CALMLY THAT SHE'D BEEN SICK IN BED WITH A COLD.
WE KNOW THE TRUTH, THOUGH. SHE JUST RAN AWAY FROM WORK.
What a pain!
SHE REALLY IS AN ACTRESS!!
YEAH.
HEY...
I'M STARVING.
BUT, YOU JUST GOT HERE.
WELL, IT IS LUNCH-TIME.
I'll go invite Kouichi.
Scanlations

What are you doing?

You said that you couldn't do anything by yourself...
That's what you said...
WHO...
IS SHE?
...But then when you left, you said that you'd do everything by yourself.


I still think about you now.

OH, SHE'S REALLY WEEPING.
ISN'T THIS MUSIC VIDEO GREAT?

MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION AGENCY
I'VE SEEN HER SOMEWHERE BEFORE.
WHAT WAS HER NAME?

WHAT SHOULD WE EAT?
BURGERS.
WE HAD THAT YESTERDAY.
OH.
I'M BROKE RIGHT NOW.
WAIT! I JUST GOT PAID FOR BEING IN THAT MUSIC VIDEO.
OH!
SO, IT'S MY TREAT.
PICK A PLACE!
HMM...
A BURGER JOINT.

Cat Street 10312/Fin
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収録作品メモ

「キャットストリート」③巻 ■別冊マーガレット・平成17年6月号から9月号に掲載

＊マーガレット コミックス

キャットストリート③

2005年11月30日　第1刷発行

著者　神尾葉子
©Yoko Kamio／Leaf Production 2005
編集　株式会社 創美社
〒101-0051 東京都千代田区神田神保町2－2
共同ビル
電話 03(3288)9823

発行人　片山道雄

発行所　株式会社 集英社
〒101-8050 東京都千代田区一ツ橋2－5－10
電話 編集部 03(3230)6257
販売部 03(3230)6191
読者係 03(3230)6076

Printed in Japan
印刷所　大日本印刷株式会社

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ISBN4-08-846007-3 C9979